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ABSTRACT

As the first part of a four part report to the U.S. Congress pursuant to Title IX, Section 901 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, this third annual report is limited to rural development activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) delivery system (the USDA National Rural Development Committee, State Rural Development Committee, and county committees). Presented via statistical and narrative summaries and exemplary activities in various States, this report discusses each of the following major programs thrusts: leadership and overall community development; comprehensive planning; community services and facilities; housing; health and welfare; manpower development; recreation and tourism; environmental protection; business and industrial development; and rural cooperatives. Also presented are total efforts of the land-grant universities which involve training professional personnel for leadership; conducting research, and extending knowledge beyond the university to the populace. Discussion relative to committee membership, organization, and activity scope is supported by tabular displays relative to 1972 State and substate rural development committee composition, major activity involvement, and man-years of USDA rural development information and technical assistance. Names and addresses of USDA rural development committee chairmen are appended. (JC)

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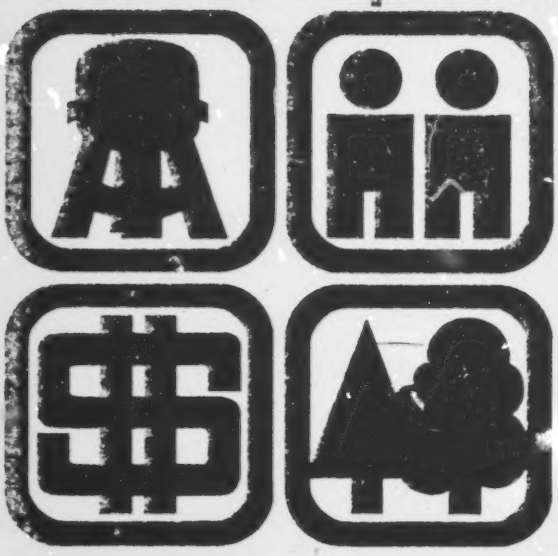

PART 1.

Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1972

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS
(Pursuant to Title IX, Section 901
of the Agricultural Act of 1970)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

"MAKING RURAL AMERICA
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK"

PEOPLE BUILDING

- Job Training
- Education
- Health Services
- Food and Nutrition
- Cultural
- Income Security
- Leadership

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Waste Disposal and Water Supply

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

- Conservation
- Recreation
- Forests and Wildlife
- Land Use Planning and Zoning

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Jobs
- Agriculture
- Business
- Industry
- Credit

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

September 1, 1972

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

Today I am transmitting the third annual report on Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1972, pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d) of the Agricultural Act of 1970.

I am happy to be able to report a substantial increase in the amount of resources devoted to revitalizing rural America. USDA expanded its information and technical assistance by 1,100 man-years in Fiscal Year 1972. This was about one-third more resources expended than in FY 71. Also, we project that FY 73 funding of principal USDA Rural Development programs will increase by one-quarter as compared to FY 72.

We in the Department realize that Rural Development must advance on several fronts simultaneously if it is to succeed. This report outlines the key role that the Department is playing to help local citizens make rural America a better place to live, work and enjoy life.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Butz

Secretary

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture expanded its information and technical assistance for Rural Development by 1,100 man-years in Fiscal Year 1972. Through its national-State-local delivery system, USDA agencies and State Cooperative Extension Services expended 4,301 man-years in FY 72, as compared to 3,200 in FY 71. The Department also assisted more than 240,000 different community projects in FY 72, in its efforts to bring about social, economic and cultural progress and produce a more balanced growth in this Nation.

USDA's unique delivery system includes the USDA National Rural Development Committee, Rural Development Committees in every State and Puerto Rico and 2,428 area and county committees. In FY 71, there were 2,274 substate committees. The county, State and national offices of USDA complete this unparalleled system that delivers not only USDA program assistance, but helps other Federal and State agencies deliver programs to rural America as well.

Assistance was rendered to rural areas through 165,000 workshops, conferences and meetings and 30,902 surveys and feasibility studies. These meetings were attended by key community leaders, public officials and other interested citizens seeking help in finding solutions to their pressing community problems. In addition, more than 100,000 different bulletins, newsletters, and fact sheets were prepared and more than 38 million copies were distributed. News articles, radio and TV broadcasts, announcements and spots, and other audio-visual presentations prepared to assist in resolving the problems of rural America likewise totaled in the thousands and benefitted millions.

Significant accomplishments were made in each of 10 concentrated program thrust areas:

1. Leadership and overall community development
2. Comprehensive planning
3. Community services and facilities
4. Housing
5. Health and welfare
6. Manpower development
7. Recreation and tourism
8. Environmental protection
9. Business and industrial development
10. Rural cooperatives

For example, in comprehensive planning, 35 States and their Rural Development Committees placed particular emphasis on this need. A total of 480 man-years were devoted to comprehensive planning assistance in the Nation by USDA and Extension employees in FY 72 compared to 380 in FY 71. Similar accomplishments are discussed in this report for each of the program thrust areas, using both statistical summaries and highlights and examples of the work in various States.

Leadership and overall community development and information and technical assistance to improve the environment continue to be the program thrusts with the major USDA resource input. Man-years devoted to housing and manpower development more than doubled in FY 72 compared to FY 71; man-years increased by more than 50 percent in business and industrial development, by more than 25 percent in leadership and overall community development and comprehensive planning. Man-years devoted to community facilities and services (a new category in this year's improved reporting system) increased substantially over similar activities for FY 71.

Included also are the total efforts of Land-Grant Universities. The Land-Grant Universities, in helping citizens, voluntary groups and public policy-making bodies, enhanced the process of Rural Development during FY 72. This was a three-pronged role of training professional personnel to serve as leaders, conducting research to discover new knowledge, new products and new ways of solving problems, and extending knowledge from the university campus to the citizens of the State. Many other public and private colleges and universities also made contributions to Rural Development.

All of these efforts are calculated to help community leaders push development ahead and make rural America a better place to live, work and enjoy life.

This report is limited to Rural Development activities and therefore excludes the technical and credit assistance provided for agricultural production and marketing, and for the construction, maintenance and service of housing, community facilities, water control structures and like projects. The report also does not indicate the budgetary emphasis being placed on Rural Development by the Department of Agriculture. For example, it is estimated that funding of principal USDA Rural Development programs in FY 73 will increase by 25 percent over FY 72 (from $2,551 million to $3,175 million). The FY 73 funding will be about 5 1/2 times larger than the FY 61 level and more than twice the FY 69 level ($3,175 million, compared to $1,369 million

The Appendix contains a list of the membership of the National USDA Rural Development Committee and chairmen of all State USDA Committees (Part A) and an indexing of references to activities in each State, by page number (Part B).

This is Part 1 of a four-part report to the Congress pursuant to Title IX. Section 901 of the Agricultural Act of 1970. The other parts deal with planning assistance, location of Federal facilities, and government servi

INTRODUCTION

Rural Development must advance on several fronts at once if it is to succeed.

Too often, Rural Development is paralyzed by tough decisions on which problem to attack first. A community that needs an industry for several reasons finally decides that it needs a water and sewer system in order to attract the industry. But the existing tax structure of the community cannot afford the system, even with Federal assistance. So community development is paralyzed.

A broad approach to development on several fronts simultaneously must be employed if we are to bypass such roadblocks. Such a broad approach (as outlined on the inside cover of this report) includes:

* Community Facilities
* Economic Development
* People building
* Environmental improvement

All four approaches are vital to community development in the view of the Department of Agriculture. The community which is weak in any one of these efforts will be limited in its development--to the extent of its weakest element. While one strong force may pull a community ahead--such as a beautiful environment--that community's development will certainly be limited if progress is limited in other developmental areas.

Community facilities include housing, transportation, sewer and water and other utilities.

Economic development emphasizes more jobs and a prosperous agriculture.

The building of people includes education, health, financial and other assistance to attack financial, educational, emotional and cultural poverty.

Improvements in the environment encompass not only conservation measures but recreation and land use planning.

Community leaders must push their development forward on several fronts at the same time. Only then can Rural Development make rural America a better place to live and work.

This third annual report to the Congress on the information and technical assistance delivered by the Department of Agriculture reflects USDA's determination to help local leaders push development ahead. The USDA efforts in 10 broad program thrust areas are aimed at making rural America a better place to live and work. USDA accomplishes its Rural Development objectives through its unparalleled delivery system of agency field workers; the State Cooperative Extension Services; national, State and local Rural Development Committees; and Land-Grant University activities.

USDA'S UNPARALLELED DELIVERY SYSTEM

Each agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been instructed to give aggressive leadership and assistance to rural development. This charge has been accepted and agency efforts are being facilitated and coordinated through USDA Rural Development Committees at the national, State, and local levels. Through these committees and the network of agency offices, USDA, including Extension, personnel are actively involved in Rural Development efforts in virtually every county in the Nation.

These professionals working in the local community on a continuing basis understand the needs of the community and are in an excellent position to respond to them. They have access to the available resource back-up of their State and national offices and a wide range of expertise from the Land-Grant colleges and universities. In most States they have also closely involved other State and Federal agencies in their Rural Development Committees and network of resource back-up. The Department's delivery system for providing information and technical assistance is unparalleled.

Rural Development Committees

The National USDA Rural Development Committee develops Department policies, programs and priorities, and coordinates agency action on matters pertaining to Rural Development. State-USDA Rural Development Committees, organized in all 50 States and Puerto Rico, have undertaken a variety of activities and demonstrated an impressive list of solid accomplishments in FY 72, their second full year of operation.

Secretary's Memorandum 1667 provided for the establishment of these committees from among six USDA agencies: Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, Economic Research Service, Rural Electrification Administration, Soil Conservation Service and the State Cooperative Extension Services. These committees were encouraged to enlarge their membership to include other appropriate State and Federal agencies.

The coordinated Rural Development efforts of these six agencies -- which collectively reach out into every rural community of America -- have become an important link in the chain of information and technical assistance flowing to rural America from the USDA.

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1667 also called for recognizing that development is the primary responsibility of local people. However, the role of coordinator is appropriate for Committees and suggests a number of other roles -- including catalyzer, educator, discoverer, facilitator and analyst. In keeping with the spirit of leaving "most details of the development process to local determination," the committees have not assumed the roles of advocate, activist or crusader for a cause.

Each State Committee elects its own officers, develops its own operating procedures and enlarges its membership as it sees fit.

Membership. Most State RDCs have enlarged their membership from the "core" USDA agencies to include representatives from other USDA agencies (such as the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the newly-created Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), other Federal agencies,

State agencies (notably representatives of Governors' offices and planning departments), other University members and citizens groups of various kinds (see Table 1).

In 20 States, Rural Development is considered so important that Statewide Rural Development groups have been formed by the Governor, the General Assembly or by other groups with Statewide interest in RD. These usually have broad-based memberships. The USDA State Committees relate to these State groups through interlocking memberships and in other ways.

One of the additions to this list during 1971-72 was Texas, where the Governor established the Texas Rural Development Commission. Twenty-five community leaders have been appointed and will study Rural Development needs and goals for 18 months before making their report and recommendations.

Organization. The most significant development in organization during FY 72 was the expansion in the number of sub-State RDCs, as shown in the last two columns of Table 1. In an attempt to broaden and decentralize the decision-making base and bring Rural Development activities closer to the people at the local level, there are now sub-State RDCs in 45 States, as compared to 41 a year earlier.

This is particularly true at the area (multi-county) level, where 32 States now have 235 area committees. This is an increase of seven States and 51 area RDCs, respectively. Therefore, there are now more than 25 percent more area committees than on June 30, 1971. There was also an increase of more than 100 county RDCs, to a total of 2,193. Thus, about two of every three counties in the Nation now have a USDA Rural Development Committee.

Activities. The scope and breadth of activities being carried out by State RDCs is varied and innovative, as suggested by Table 2. This table shows the 10 Program Thrusts of the committees. These thrusts are carried out in various ways: through task forces or sub-committees; at the State, area or county level.

The following sections of this report detail the types of activities and the accomplishments in these Program Thrusts or Issue Areas.

These States had conferences or tours or other educational programs in FY 72: Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Virginia hosted a Mid-Atlantic Conference on Rural Development. A total of 110 persons from seven States attended the three-day conference, staged by the USDA and Virginia community colleges. Among the States conducting tours were New York (a "North Country" tour) and Pennsylvania (a tour of the Southeastern part of the State, with the theme "Agricultural Progress and Urban Development: Values in Conflict").

Table 1.--Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1972

State	Number of State Committee Members						Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
	USDA, Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership		
Alabama	7	1	5	2	1	16	0	67*
Alaska	7	12	12	3	3	37	4	0
Arizona	16	15	34	9	8	82	1	10
Arkansas	14	0	2	1	0	17	8	75*
California	9	0	4	0	1	14	0	0
Colorado	8	3	6	2	8	27	12	0
Connecticut	6	5	6	1	1	19	0	0
Delaware	7	0	1	1	0	10	0	3
Florida	9	0	1	4	0	14	0	67*
Georgia	7	0	6	3	5	21	0	155
Hawaii	5	3	3	0	0	11	0	4
Idaho	7	0	1	1	0	9	0	42
Illinois	7	1	1	0	0	9	7	84
Indiana	10	3	5	0	0	18	14	0
Iowa	10	0	2	1	0	13	3	100
Kansas	12	0	2	0	1	15	11	105*
Kentucky	6	0	2	0	1	9	12	111
Louisiana	12	1	4	1	0	18	0	64*
Maine	7	0	5	1	0	13	2	7
Maryland	9	2	13	1	6	31	1	3
Massachusetts	13	1	12	2	0	28	0	0
Michigan	6	2	1	0	0	9	0	80
Minnesota	7	0	0	0	0	7	8	0
Mississippi	7	0	3	1	0	11	0	82*
Missouri	7	2	6	2	0	17	20	0
Montana	12	0	2	1	0	15	6	48
Nebraska	7	0	1	0	0	8	26	0

(Continued)

* All counties in the State.

0011

Table 1.--Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1972
(Continued)

State	Number of State Committee Members						Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
	USDA, Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership		
Nevada	7	0	0	1	0	8	4	7
New Hampshire	7	0	2	1	0	10	0	0
New Jersey	8	0	6	0	0	14	1	10
New Mexico	7	0	1	1	0	9	6	2
New York	8	0	9	0	0	17	12	0
North Carolina	6	0	7	3	0	16	0	100*
North Dakota	6	0	1	0	0	7	3	49
Ohio	8	0	2	0	0	10	2	84
Oklahoma	8	0	1	1	0	10	11	77*
Oregon	8	1	4	0	0	13	14	36*
Pennsylvania	8	0	2	1	0	11	3	64
Puerto Rico	7	0	4	0	0	11	5	72
Rhode Island	9	2	10	1	1	23	0	0
South Carolina	9	0	2	0	1	12	10	0
South Dakota	9	0	0	0	0	9	3	60
Tennessee	7	0	2	0	0	9	8	95*
Texas	8	1	5	1	0	15	0	252
Utah	7	2	2	1	0	12	7	0
Vermont	10	1	6	1	1	19	5	0
Virginia	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Washington	11	6	19	1	3	40	4	39*
West Virginia	8	0	7	0	0	15	0	55*
Wisconsin	7	2	8	2	0	19	2	61
Wyoming	10	0	4	0	0	14	0	23*
Total	423	66	244	52	41	827	235	2,193

* All counties in the State.

0012

Table 2.--Major Activities Reported by State Rural Development Committees, FY 1972

State	Leadership and Overall Community Development	Comprehensive Planning	Community Services and Facilities	Housing	Health and Welfare	Manpower Development	Recreation and Tourism	Environmental Protection	Business and Industrial Development	Rural Cooperatives
Alabama	X	X	X			X			X	
Alaska		X		X				X	X	
Arizona	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Arkansas	X	X	X		X					
California	X		X						X	
Colorado		X								
Connecticut		X				X				
Delaware	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Florida	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
Georgia			X					X		
Hawaii		X							X	
Idaho	X	X								
Illinois	X		X	X	X			X	X	
Indiana	X	X								
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Kansas	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Kentucky	X	X	X	X					X	
Louisiana	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Maine		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Maryland	X	X	X			X			X	
Massachusetts										
Michigan		X	X	X	X				X	
Minnesota	X	X					X		X	
Mississippi		X	X	X		X		X		
Missouri	X	X	X					X	X	
Montana	X						X	X	X	
Nebraska	X									

(Continued)

0013

Table 2.--Major Activities Reported by State Rural Development Committees, FY 1972
(Continued)

State	Leadership and Overall Community Development	Comprehensive Planning	Community Services and Facilities	Housing	Health and Welfare	Manpower Development	Recreation and Tourism	Environmental Protection	Business and Industrial Development	Rural Cooperatives
Nevada	X	X								
New Hampshire	X					X		X		
New Jersey		X						X	X	
New Mexico	X					X		X		
New York	X	X		X	X			X		
North Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
North Dakota	X		X					X	X	
Ohio	X	X	X	X				X		
Oklahoma	X	X	X					X	X	
Oregon	X		X		X		X		X	
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Puerto Rico	X		X	X					X	
Rhode Island		X		X		X	X			
South Carolina	X	X	X	X	X			X		
South Dakota	X	X	X	X				X	X	
Tennessee	X	X	X					X	X	
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Utah	X	X	X					X	X	
Vermont		X						X	X	
Virginia	X	X			X	X		X		
Washington				X				X		
West Virginia	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Wisconsin	X		X						X	
Wyoming									X	
Total	37	35	29	21	15	14	13	26	30	2

0014

Iowa's one-day conference attracted 390 participants; Maryland's Statewide conference on the urban-rural "clash" was attended by 200; Missouri's second annual Governors' conference on Rural Development concentrated on "making Rural Missouri Visible."

New Mexico organized a "Rural Development Concilium." For 2-1/2 days, 106 participants heard what 35 different groups and agencies had to contribute to the development effort. The Concilium resulted in publication of "The Yellow Pages for Rural Development in New Mexico."

Arizona continued its unique program of all-day community meetings. This attempt (often successful) to bring State resources to bear on local problems resulted in a USDA Honor Award for the Arizona RDC.

The North Carolina RDC also achieved an Honor Award for "...helping communities to improve the quality and availability of housing." The Appanoose County, Iowa RDC was the third committee honored. The citation for this county committee was "For vigorous leadership in improving the quality of life..." of the county.

These State Committees engaged in training and development programs in the past year: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Examples of training efforts: Florida, among several other States, conducted Rural Development training for county USDA staff. Kansas had a one-day USDA "middle management" training session and nine district meetings on comprehensive planning. North Carolina county RD panels carried out an impressive number of training schools and workshops on Rural Development -- 205 with 5,679 enrolled. Oklahoma trained county RDCs on the leadership identification process.

The USDA Environmental Thrust program is being spearheaded by RDCs in Arizona, Delaware, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah and Virginia.

A number of publications have resulted from State RDC efforts. Among States with publications: Connecticut ("Know Your Land"); Indiana, Louisiana and West Virginia (newsletters); Montana; Ohio ("Consider the Land"); New Hampshire and Utah.

States which are encouraging or supporting Resource Conservation and Development districts as a major activity include Delaware, Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island and South Carolina.

USDA's newly-established policy on youth involvement in community development is typified by efforts along these lines in Delaware, Georgia and Nevada.

Miscellaneous activities are many, including Louisiana's sponsorship of "Industry Appreciation Week."

This sampling of selected RDC activities, it is hoped, helps explain the kinds of things committees are accomplishing.

Land-Grant University Information and Technical Assistance

The knowledge and technology produced by the Land-Grant universities have greatly improved the economic opportunities and quality of life in rural America. These universities continue to be in tune with the major problems faced by local communities. Through teaching, Extension and research programs, the Land-Grant universities are responding to the growing demand for objective information and understanding that the universities are uniquely qualified to provide.

The increasing complexities of development and the emerging desire on the part of the local citizens to be a more meaningful force in the development of their communities account for much of the growing demand for information and technical assistance to help solve community problems.

The Land-Grant university delivery system includes the Cooperative Extension Service in every State. Cooperative Extension personnel serve on every State RD Committee. Representatives of other units of the universities also serve on 32 State Committees. Cooperative Extension efforts in Rural Development are included throughout this report, along with State RD Committee and USDA activities. However, the activities of other units and departments of the Land-Grant universities also contribute much, as the following information indicates.

Each of the Land-Grant universities is conducting research which will provide vital information to help local communities make more knowledgeable decisions. Currently, the State Experiment Stations have more than 300 such projects underway. Examples include: institutional structures for improving rural communities services in Mississippi; the economics of institutional arrangements for viable rural communities in North Dakota and other Great Plains States, identification and analysis of factors that influence the growth or decline of small rural towns, factors affecting industry location, feasibility studies on a pork processing plant for Comanche County and on commercial feedlots for the communities of Garden City, Rice County and Scott County, Kansas.

Each Land-Grant university is offering courses as part of its ongoing academic program which help professional rural community developers and community leaders. These include subjects such as: regional planning, local government, public administration, economics and sociology. In addition, at least two universities are offering degree programs in community development and several others are considering such programs.

The following report on the University of Arizona's efforts to provide information and technical assistance to assist in rural development is typical of the efforts of most Land-Grant universities (underlining added):

"...to improve coordination and continuity, the Community Development Section of the Extension Service helped initiate the organization of a University-wide committee which was formed in May 1972 and titled, 'The UA Community Resources Committee.' This committee of some 60 members from many colleges and departments of the University met with the State Rural Development Committee, and plans to do this regularly in future years in order to better coordinate research and assistance of the University with the assistance furnished by the State RDC. Vice President Johnson, in charge of University Relations, is heading up this committee.

"The University, primarily through the Department of Government, has worked with various towns in an effort to make local government more efficient. One of the latest towns assisted was Tucson. This same type of help was given to rural towns whenever possible. A handbook for mayors and councilmen was developed.

"The University also is helping local communities with planning. Planning experts, along with Extension Service, hold community planning workshops. Graduate students are used for summer training in various communities. Several are working this summer. For example, two are assisting Mohave County with a land use study and a transportation study.

"Some help has also been given communities on public finance. At the meeting, it was pointed out that the Business College would be willing to carry out this type of help in rural areas.

"Through its Regional Medical Program and its Community Medicine Department, the College of Medicine is working in rural communities throughout the state with such programs as library information network, dial-a-tape for certain health information, family doctor training and area health planning.

"The College of Engineering holds annually a two-day conference on roads and streets, and a one-day conference on environmental problems. The college also will help communities on a limited basis.

"Primarily through the Department of Agricultural Economics in the College of Agriculture, rural studies are being carried out in cooperation with the Four Corners Regional Commission. The major thrust is an Agricultural Plan for the Four Corners area of the state. Several studies have been completed in connection with this effort.

"The Department of Geography and Area Development has assisted communities in developing goals and studying alternatives to achieve these goals. Students of the department are available to help communities through the summer.

"The Departments of Watershed Management and Agricultural Economics are working in recreation--on management of recreation areas, economic input, lake management, study of homeowners in the White Mountains, and a study of the value of hunting and fishing.

"Cooperative work on environmental problems is being carried out. The Environmental Research Lab is attempting to integrate research on food, water and power production. Desalination of brackish water and its use to provide food are major thrusts of this program.

"The College of Continuing Education is training teachers and offering courses in business and other topics."

This example illustrates the breadth of knowledge and expertise which the Land-Grant universities throughout the Nation are extending, to help local communities solve their development problems.

Furthermore, other public and private universities and colleges also make significant inputs into the national Rural Development effort.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Department's delivery of Rural Development information and technical assistance is summarized in Tables 3 through 6.

The USDA agencies and Extension expanded their assistance to local communities and districts and State planning and development groups to 4,301 man-years (Table 3). This compares to 3,200 man-years in FY 71 for an increase of 1,100 man-years, or 35 percent.

The program thrusts reported are not all comparable to the categories as reported in FY 71, due to improvements in the reporting system. However, in those areas comparatively compiled in both FY 71 and 72, these generalizations can be drawn:

1. Leadership and overall community development and environmental protection continue to be the program thrusts with the major USDA resource input.

2. Man-years devoted to housing more than doubled.

3. Manpower development assistance doubled to about 180 man-years. (Table 3 shows that manpower development man-years quadrupled to 363 man-years. This larger figure reflects inclusion for the first time of the Job Corps and other Department of Labor program involvement by the Forest Service.

4. Increases of more than 25 percent in man-years expended for information and technical assistance were recorded in the program thrust areas of leadership and overall community development and comprehensive planning, and more than 50 percent in business and industrial development.

5. Community facilities and services is a new category for FY 72. Though there was no comparable figure reported in FY 71, there was a substantial increase of man-years in this general area.

The staff assisted more than 240,000 projects in FY 72 and conducted more than 30,000 surveys and feasibility studies (compared to about 22,000 in FY 71). (See Table 4).

The amount and variety of printed information material delivered (Table 5) and audio-visual presentations made (Table 6) concerning Rural Development generally increased in FY 72 as compared to FY 71.

Table 3.--Man-Years of Rural Development Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by USDA, FY 1972

Program Thrusts	Man-Years Expended
Leadership and Overall Community Development	888
Comprehensive Planning	480
Community Services and Facilities	565
Housing	295
Health and Welfare	202
Manpower Development	363
Recreation and Tourism	225
Environmental Protection	1,064
Business and Industrial Development	175
Rural Cooperatives	44
Total	4,301

Table 4.--Rural Development Technical Assistance Delivered by USDA, FY 1972

Program Thrusts	* Projects Given Assistance	* Surveys and Feasibility Studies Conducted	Workshops, Conferences, Meetings: Convened and Conducted	Workshops, Conferences, Meetings: Provided Significant Assistance
Leadership and Overall Community Development	57,898	2,111	38,955	10,109
Comprehensive Planning	24,417	12,445	22,837	5,028
Community Services and Facilities	99,129	5,455	16,110	10,803
Housing	7,263	1,446	4,660	3,182
Health and Welfare	4,019	793	6,554	4,039
Manpower Development	2,004	481	1,680	1,797
Recreation and Tourism	10,420	2,209	6,028	3,118
Environmental Protection	28,147	3,777	14,486	6,100
Business and Industrial Development	7,973	1,914	3,930	3,110
Rural Cooperatives	1,410	271	1,129	1,256
Total	242,680	30,902	116,369	48,542

*Basically, figures represent different projects, surveys and feasibility studies given assistance. However, some duplication may be involved when help was given by more than one agency.

Table 5.-- Rural Development Information Delivered by USDA, FY 1972
(Printed Material)

Program Thrusts	Different Publications Prepared (Newsletters, Bulletins, Fact Sheets)	Publications Distributed	News Articles Prepared
Leadership and Overall Community Development	39,547	1,038,512	13,822
Comprehensive Planning	5,400	765,203	7,718
Community Services and Facilities	23,857	1,748,511	32,670
Housing	9,193	885,297	11,057
Health and Welfare	7,188	719,246	4,569
Manpower Development	788	140,050	1,076
Recreation and Tourism	4,124	1,222,320	6,306
Environmental Protection	16,481	30,890,694	47,537
Business and Industrial Development	1,411	359,538	13,618
Rural Cooperatives	1,940	483,232	971
Total	109,929	38,252,603	139,344

Table 6.--Rural Development Information Delivered by USDA, FY 1972
(Audio-Visual Presentations)

Program Thrusts	Radio	TV	Video Tapes	Films, Slide Sets, Cassettes, etc.
Leadership and Overall Community Development	9,330	777	112	601
Comprehensive Planning	4,226	407	64	445
Community Services and Facilities	13,651	3,236	408	1,017
Housing	7,525	2,577	131	262
Health and Welfare	4,102	605	119	181
Manpower Development	801	68	18	27
Recreation and Tourism	3,309	774	114	438
Environmental Protection	10,156	1,021	303	704
Business and Industrial Development	1,964	276	24	138
Rural Cooperatives	791	58	16	37
Total	55,855	9,799	1,309	3,850

PROGRAM THRUSTS

1. LEADERSHIP AND OVERALL RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Leadership may be the single most important ingredient in a community's development. Leadership can inspire, organize, foresee problems, find solutions and steadily impart the vital forward motion necessary to progress. Through its Rural Development Committees and agency programs, USDA seeks to find and ignite or encourage such leadership and to assist it in every way.

Overall community development is generally the first concern of such leadership and therefore so closely linked with it in activities that they are grouped together in this accounting.

Not specifically mentioned but included are two other aspects of Rural Development activities. One is employee training in Rural Development concepts, (mentioned in the Rural Development Committee section) a fast growing activity within USDA and among committees at all levels. Another activity included in this category is work dealing with the explanation of tax issues to the public.

Statistical Summary

USDA devoted more man-days to leadership and overall community development than to any other category of assistance except environment last year. Twenty-one percent of the total man-days expended were devoted to leadership and overall development. Such efforts totaled 888 man-years. This compares to 694 man-years in the preceding fiscal year.

In terms of actual projects to which significant assistance was given, leadership and overall community development projects totaled 24 percent of the USDA efforts, second only to community services and facilities. There were 57,898 leadership and overall development projects recorded.

Surveys of leadership and overall development can play a significant role in a community's rural development, especially in the early phases. USDA and Extension were able to assist in 2,111 such surveys in Fiscal 1972.

In many cases, the initiative for the development of a rural community begins with a meeting called by USDA's Rural Development Committee or some agency member of the committee. Such early meetings, workshops and conferences dealing with leadership and overall community development totaled 38,955 in the past fiscal year--more than on any other subject.

Often the meetings are convened by other people and USDA welcomes this initiative. At the same time, rural development committees and their members will play significant, active roles in the meetings once they are

convened. Over 10,000 meetings (10,109) dealing with leadership and overall community development drew significant support from USDA and Extension personnel at State, area and local levels last year.

USDA agencies prepared 39,547 different publications (newsletters, bulletins, fact sheets) dealing with leadership and overall community development; distributed 1,038,512 publications on the subject and prepared 13,822 different news articles in that field.

Radio was a popular way to reach the people. Rural Development Committees and their members prepared 9,330 separate radio presentations on leadership and overall community development in Fiscal 1972. They also prepared 777 television presentations, 112 videotapes and 601 other audiovisual presentations (films, slide sets, cassettes, etc.) on leadership and overall community development.

Highlights and Examples

As a practical device, the Chilton County Resource Development Committee in Alabama reorganized its committee structure along Federal program lines. Committee membership and subcommittee work are now designed to meet the requirements of programs in child development, manpower training and the Economic Development Administration's overall program. County USDA employees worked out the organizational plan with local leaders. The plan was coordinated with the regional planning commision and the Alabama Development Office. Each subcommittee comprises a nucleus of members from the county Rural Development Committee, appointed by the county government in cooperation with municipal governments, with other members added to meet the subcommittee's specific assignment.

In Arizona, the State Rural Development Committee took government representatives to the people in a series of seven one-day community meetings throughout the State. This communications leap spotlighted each community's problems and resulted in increased jobs, water systems and sewer systems, as well as community inventories and attitude surveys.

In Connecticut, Forest Service personnel have helped organize and train fire departments throughout the State.

A workshop initiated by the Illinois RDC and cosponsored by relevant departments of State government led to the creation of a Governor's Cabinet on Rural Development. Cabinet committees were assigned to farm income, small community problems, economic development, natural resource development and rural health.

County rural development committees in Iowa have been asked by the State RDC to draw up action plans involving other agencies and organizations in the following areas: housing, water development, waste disposal,

manpower and employment services, rural industrialization, land use policy, transportation, rural community services, woodland and other natural resource utilization and intermediate credit. County committees determine priorities.

Keeping up to date, the Kansas State RDC brought in State and Federal government representatives to discuss their plans and programs. Among them were representatives of: Cooperative Area Manpower Planning System (CAMPS), the Kansas Department of Economic Development, the Great Plains Agricultural Council, the Kansas State Department of Health, Centers for Regional Progress and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The disposal of solid wastes is a burgeoning problem across rural America. In Kentucky, as an example of community teamwork, efforts by the Wolfe County interagency committee and others led to the purchase of 116 acres for a sanitary landfill to serve Wolfe, Lee and Owsley Counties.

A scientific survey was conducted to determine the needs of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. The local RDC and Louisiana State University carried it out. Then public meetings were called to discuss the problems. Steps have been taken to achieve the three top goals: solid waste disposal, vocational education facilities and recreational facilities.

Addressed by key State and national rural development figures, the first Maryland Rural Development Conference sparked by the Maryland Rural Affairs Council focused attention on (1) the resources available through the council and (2) the extensive efforts being made to insure balanced growth in the State's rural areas.

A University of Missouri - Columbia, interdepartmental committee has developed six reference publications, five discussion leaflets, slide sets, acetates and other educational material dealing with: (1) stresses in local government, (2) political culture of Missouri, (3) trends in State and local government finance in Missouri 1960-68, (4) some basic principles of public financing, (5) alternatives for county government reorganization and (6) alternatives for providing needed public facilities and services. The program using these materials is being carried out through numerous organizations ranging from service and civic clubs, schools and farm and labor groups to women's groups and chambers of commerce. Some 60,000 participant packets have been distributed through short course, conferences, workshops, study-discussion groups and in other ways.

The Nevada State Rural Development Committee is helping young people carry out environmental improvement projects through the Statewide Community Pride program by providing informational material and listing resources.

To help a community within its area, a regional community development committee in New York met with local leaders and civic groups in Whitehall to develop a clear understanding of the city's problems and to draw up

a plan to improve conditions. With this aid, local leaders have drawn up an action plan involving housing, historic restoration and recreation development. Several regional committees in New York have chosen individual communities to help in this organizational way. In addition, the committees serve as liaison to outside assistance.

To develop leadership at all levels, the North Carolina State RDC conducted both a State conference on Rural Development and four regional conferences, outlining opportunities for county panels to work with local leaders, planning and development groups and local policy-making bodies.

In a pilot area for concerted services, 20 leaders of the Cambridge, Ohio area met to agree upon goals and priorities for problem solving under the encouragement of the State RDC. Since then, the community has formed a housing corporation, started an industrial feasibility study and formed a farmers market corporation.

Also in Ohio, a 15-minute color movie designed to get people involved in their communities was developed by the Geauga County Rural Development Committee. Entitled "We still Have Time," the movie deals with the need for orderly planning and development in a rapidly urbanizing area.

The Oregon RDC has asked pilot areas for local judgment on high priority problems, warning leaders that all problems cannot be solved at once but that some action can begin by (1) using resources from all levels and (2) finding ways to overcome restrictions. Three multi-county districts are involved.

A two-county forum was created in Bradford and Sullivan counties, Pennsylvania, to keep key leaders informed of current public issues and to unify community action. More than the original 50 leaders want to become involved in the popular meetings of the forum.

The Dallas County RDC in Texas wondered how to get agriculture more involved in the news. After meeting with media representatives, the county agricultural agent started a weekly television program, the county Farm Bureau appeared on television and radio programs, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service director joined the ag agent in presenting a television show on the 1972 farm program and both Dallas newspapers have published agricultural news. In addition, the Dallas Agricultural Club has presented programs throughout the area.

Citizen groups, the Utah State RDC and the State Department of Community Affairs in the Governor's office have joined in a program entitled Community Progress Program, which will reward communities for progress in planning, economic development, social and cultural development and physical improvement. A movie describing the program has been developed.

Because of workshops in the Parkersburg, West Virginia area, a number of young people are participating in every activity of several county Mountaineers for Rural Progress committees. Furthermore, persons not directly involved in Rural Development programs have asked to receive the newly-developed newsletter published by the State RDC.

2. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

During the past year there has been a substantial increase in the amount of USDA comprehensive planning assistance provided to State governments, multi-county organizations and local development groups. In FY 1971, some 380 man-years of Departmental comprehensive planning assistance was provided. During FY 1972, more than 480 man-years of help was provided. There has been increased enthusiasm shown by State governments to become deeply involved in comprehensive planning. This interest is manifested by the formation of State planning departments, improved staffing and increased financial help to local planning agencies.

A report on USDA assistance to HUD 701-funded nonmetropolitan planning districts has been provided Congress separately as Part 2 of the Third Annual Rural Development Report prusuant to Title IX, Sec. 901 of the Agricultural Act of 1970.

Statistical Summary

Over 24,000 community projects were provided help in comprehensive planning during FY 1972, involving nearly 28,000 meetings and workshops. There were more than 12,000 surveys and feasibility studies made for development groups as a part of their comprehensive planning efforts. Departmental information activities related to comprehensive planning more than doubled during the past Fiscal Year.

Highlights and Examples

Throughout the last Fiscal Year all agencies of the Department have, through the Rural Development Committees structure, assisted local communities in their planning efforts. The type and kind of assistance varied in accordance with the needs of the individual community. During the past year vast improvement has taken place in providing coordinated and timely help to local citizen groups.

Many USDA field personnel serve on advisory committees to comprehensive planning agencies helping local groups in the development of standards and specifications. These field personnel have also assisted community leadership in establishing appropriate land use regulations needed for comprehensive planning and community development.

A substantial number of State Rural Development Committees have initiated programs to mutually improve understanding and working agreements with the professional planners and their organizations. This effort will help to coordinate understanding and better serve the needs of local citizens.

Training meetings and workshops have been conducted for citizens and their leadership to help them better understand the development process. Help also was given to improve the community development organizational structure and to implement project activities as part of the program planning development process.

Through the Rural Development organizational structure of the Department and its field offices, direct working arrangements have been established with essentially all regional, State, sub-State, and local planning agencies for the purpose of providing timely assistance and to facilitate the coordination of activities initiated and resulting from comprehensive planning efforts.

There are outstanding cases in every State that illustrate accomplishments resulting from technical and informational assistance provided by the USDA field agencies. Vermont has formed Natural Resources Technical Teams to work with town planning commissions on land inventories and alternatives for use of natural resources. This information is used by the citizenry to chart their course of action.

People in the municipal watershed of the city of The Dalles, Oregon, made a multi-discipline land use study of national forests and private lands. It is now used as the basis of the comprehensive development plan.

In Louisiana, the local Rural Development Committee assisted in the development of parish-wide solid waste disposal systems. A similar effort in Alabama has resulted in a comprehensive rural solid waste disposal system for most counties.

Elkhart County, Indiana has experienced an unprecedented growth of population. This has caused the shifting of much land from agriculture to non-agricultural uses. The Department's agencies, working through the Soil and Water Conservation District, have provided technical and informational help to guide this change in an orderly and practical manner. The local committee is known as "Technical Plat Review Advisory Committee." In Indiana, an Extension agent is, by law, a member of all county and area planning commissions.

The Environmental Improvement Commission in Cumberland County, Maine acted on the technical advice and information provided by USDA to stop housing and other develoments on soils not suitable for such development. A permit system now prevents all such developments from further downgrading the environment.

In Grant County, West Virginia, the Rural Development Committee was instrumental in having the county court establish a planning commission. The county court has adopted a county comprehensive plan. All of this has led to both the county and city of Petersburg having housing authorities.

A major USDA effort in Colorado during the year has been devoted to land use planning as the result of specific land use legislation passed during 1971. With the land use legislation requiring that the county commissioners establish a county planning commission by July 1, 1972, the Extension field staff is providing leadership in all of the nonmetropolitan counties engaged in meeting this legislative deadline. The Extension Service was assigned to the newly created Land Use Commission Task Force and is conducting seminars throughout the State to explain the new legislation and to provide direct input from local citizens in developing the State land use plan, forming county planning commissions and direction for the emerging role of the Land Use Commission.

Developing public interest and support in comprehensive land use planning was a need met in Stanislaus County, California. Extension's County Director perceived that unplanned development was posing an environmental threat. A land use workshop for community leaders had been planned and conducted in late May, 1971. However, official follow-through was lagging and several local leaders voiced concern over lack of direction. The first step was a proceedings publication.

Citizen participation was extensive, with a broad spectrum of individuals serving on advisory committees to local government. The Division of Environmental Studies, Davis, worked with local planning departments and counseled citizens committees. A community college provided facilities and staff participation. The most significant result has been expanded citizen participation in local government, not only in land use planning but also in transportation, housing, employment and public services. Citizen advisory committee reports are still in the formative stage. A large number of people are now convinced that they can exert some influence in how their community develops.

The Economic Research Service published a Rural Development Chartbook depicting economic and social conditions in rural America, to be used by State Rural Development Committees and others as an aid to comprehensive planning.

The Economic Research Service also has available a Development District Information System (DDIS). This system is designed to provide information on the current status of State-designated multi-county planning and development districts. In addition, it contains information on other multi-county planning and development districts, such as Councils of Government, Economic Development Districts, RC and D projects, and HUD 701 nonmetropolitan planning and development projects. Information is obtained from districts and State planning agencies through a network of ERS field personnel. Information is also obtained from other Federal agencies and private research and planning agencies.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The availability of a wide range of community services and facilities is crucial to the development of rural areas, not only in supporting the creation of business and industrial employment opportunities, but also in enhancing the overall quality of life in such areas. Adequate water and waste disposal facilities are paramount, but good electric and telephone service, libraries, easy access to medical services and facilities and better transportation are also essential.

The ability of a community to provide these services and facilities is influenced significantly by the geography, location, population density and physical characteristics of the area. Cooperative efforts within the community are necessary and often the facilities can be provided only through the cooperation and participation of multijurisdictional areas. As a consequence, much of USDA's efforts have been expended in the exploration, organization and support of such cooperative arrangements.

Statistical Summary

Concurrent with the physiographic factors which determine the extent of development is the availability of financing. The Farmers Home Administration in its water and waste disposal programs made 1,226 system loans totalling nearly $300 million and 551 grants of nearly $40 million. This credit was supplied as supplementary to the standard nongovernment sources and other government credit which was available for similar purposes.

In providing the information and technical assistance back-up to the physiographic and financial decisions of local leaders, the USDA personnel helped conduct over 5,400 surveys and feasibility studies associated with a variety of community services and facilities. Assistance was rendered also in connection with about 99,000 different projects. In the process, the Department was involved in some 26,900 workshops, conferences and meetings, prepared nearly 24,000 bulletins and fact sheets, and distributed about 1.8 million copies of publications, along with more than 51,000 items for the news media. All together, 565 man-years were devoted to this activity.

Highlights and Examples

Water -- The type of assistance extended to rural communities in providing safe and dependable water supplies was rather consistent and uniform throughout the various States. Generally, it involved help in assessing the magnitude of the problem, supplying information regarding alternative solutions, feasibility studies, organizational assistance, methods of financing, education regarding user responsibilities and the training of administrative and maintenance personnel.

In Alabama, over one-third of the County Rural Development Committees emphasized the development of sanitary water systems in their plans of work.

Since water and sewer facilities comprise a major part of the Farmers Home Administration credit program, the information and technical assistance provided in connection with it has had substantial impact in improving community conditions.

Costs for water and sewer facilities are relatively high in rural areas since they are usually of low density. Many times feasibility is predicated on a partial grant. Substantial information and technical assistance is required to have local people in need fully realize the matters that must be resolved to provide these services.

USDA has taken appropriate action to advise communities who need water and waste disposal improvements. There are still many areas not yet covered. New ways for providing these facilities will need to be found if some of the sparser areas are to be feasibly served.

The Soil Conservation Service aided in bringing water to three rural communities in Johnson County, Tennessee, by tapping a huge spring, designing a gravity flow water system and a filter with the assistance of the county health department. Most of the 77 families in the area have water piped into the house; many have added bathrooms and some new homes are being built.

Sewer -- Many communities in every State do not have sewer facilities or find their facilities old or inadequate. During the fiscal year 1972, USDA provided educational and technical assistance to more than 1,000 counties considering sewer projects. Local community Leaders and developers were acquainted with the problems of sewage disposal, particularly as to the soil type and to the advantages and disadvantages of the several types of community sewage disposal units feasible. Leaders were also informed as to financial assistance programs available and requirements for assistance.

The Farmer Cooperative Service has assisted in organizing various community facilities. For example, it assisted the "company town" of Bellamy, Alabama, in ascertaining the feasibility of a community-owned cooperative water-sewage association.

Solid Waste Disposal -- Consistent with the current demand for protection of the environment and pollution abatement, providing facilities for solid waste disposal has proved to be an area of universal concern among the States. Interest has been stimulated also because of the recent passage of State laws prohibiting burning and open dumps and otherwise governing the disposal of waste. In addition, there is need to comply with regulations that were previously in effect. In addition, it has

included help in establishing recycling centers, locating satisfactory sites for sanitary landfills, and in gaining user acceptance. Frequently, such efforts have been undertaken in cooperation with the respective State health departments.

FHA has begun a campaign of education and information regarding establishment of solid waste disposal facilities in Utah. In Mississippi , county office personnel have assisted local leaders in preparing complete countywide solid waste disposal plans. Substate planning has taken place in Oklahoma.

USDA has been involved in the preliminary investigation and planning for recreational facilities for the City of Cass Lake, Minnesota , as well as planning advice and coordination with local villages and township officials for waste disposal sites and their operation. Preliminary work has been undertaken to establish a satellite collection station in the Cass Lake area to be used in conjunction with the Bemidji recycling center.

The District Forester for the West Central district of Oregon reported serving on a citizens' advisory committee for Deschutes County. He was appointed to the solid waste committee. The county was trying to locate a site for a sanitary landfill and was evaluating two sites for this purpose. The Forester's report recommended one site known as Knott Pit. As a result of the report, the board of county commissioners chose Knott Pit and used the Forester's report as a basis for requesting a Federal grant for funds to help develop the pit. An additional result of this report was that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality used it as a basis for accepting the site.

In south Alaska, the national forests completely surround the villages and towns. Many of the small native villages look to the USDA to help in solving their sewage problems. The Forest Service assists them with their sanitary landfill problems, helps them with the design of their water and sewage systems and repairs airplane floats. It has also helped with totem pole restoration and development of memorial parks.

The personnel of national forests throughout Colorado are devoting considerable effort to assisting local communities, counties and state agencies in resolving problems in solid waste and sewage disposal. Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre National Forests have participated in areawide efforts. The Roosevelt National Forest is working with several small rural communities to close open dumps and develop sanitary landfills. North Park Rangers were instrumental in establishing a garbage disposal system, a clean-up campaign in the community of Waldon and a countywide spring clean-up.

Morgan County, Alabama, has the first countywide private door-to-door solid waste pick-up program in the State. Three years ago, the State Rural Development Committee began working with local leaders to develop a

proposal and place it in operation. The county has five solid waste districts with a franchised dealer in each district serving approximately 1,500 households. Cost is $3 per month for one weekly pick-up per subscriber. All refuse is hauled to sanitary landfills.

North Carolina reported a variety of solid waste projects. One multi-county problem affecting Yancey and Mitchell was solved by combining their efforts to secure an Appalachian Regional Commission grant. The Rural Development Panels of each county provided much planning, publicity and coordination that resulted in the purchase of a joint landfill site. Each county then purchased 40 dumpsters which were placed in strategic locations and emptied twice weekly. The county health departments provide supervision. Swain and Pamlico counties have also done much to dispose of unsightly trash by establishing disposal systems. Northampton County experienced one of the early successes. This took the excellent cooperation of the citizens of the county, town officials, county commissioners and manager, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service and some financial assistance from the Farmers Home Administration.

In New York, North Dakota, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, there have been solid waste disposal programs launched to meet the requirements of recently passed legislation which required proper disposal. In Indiana, solid waste disposal was given a high priority for action. Sixty-eight projects, involving 76 counties were acted upon during the year. In Kentucky, 38 communities took action.

Education -- Education is another community service many want improved. The demand continues high for trained technicians and an educated labor force. Cooperative Extension Service efforts have been launched to help the local communities understand the need for quality education and the opportunity for achieving it. There is much interest in vocational and technical training and in greater utilization of school facilities for community activities throughout the summer and during the school year. In Ohio, for example, the Cooperative Extension Service worked with 20 counties considering the community school program. In total, USDA assisted with over 3,500 educational projects.

In Wyoming, FHA maintained close contact with the vocational agriculture instructors in connection with the "Build Our American Communities Program." The spin-off from the program has resulted in many opportunities to teach youth the financial lessons and loan opportunities offered by FHA. This activity is replicated in several States. This training supplements other youth training and provides them with know how which they can use in doing their part in rural development.

In New Mexico, FHA invited a select group of outstanding students from various high schools in Albuquerque to visit Portales to learn what life in Roosevelt County is all about. The New Mexico RFD tour visited farms,

dairies, business firms, a feedlot, a museum, the BOAC project and a TV station. The young adults returned from their tour considerably more appreciative of life in an urban atmosphere. They learned how much planning, work and money go into each crop year for a farmer. They were amazed at the sight of tons of peanuts at the processing plant; the gallons of milk produced daily by one dairyman. The intricacy of an irrigation sprinkler system was appalling, but no more than the innocence of newborn puppies. Young adults from both the country and the city soon bridged the gap and became fast friends. It was an educational activity in the true sense of the word.

Electric and Telephone -- Although most of the country has electric and telephone service, a few counties, like Lander and Nye, Nevada, do not have telephone service. The Cooperative Extension Service is involved with these people in trying to establish toll-free telephone service. Surveys are being made to determine the feasibility of such a project. It will cover some of the same area that is now receiving electric power through the Mount Wheeler Cooperative. For a community to work together, it must be able to communicate together.

In Oregon, the Rural Development Committee was successful in getting agreements signed between residents of the Starkey area and California-Pacific Utilities Company to provide electric service to this area. This is a project which took several years, the assistance of members of the committee and the Public Utilities Commission.

In December 1971, one of the last great unserved areas of the country got telephone service for the first time. Cattle ranchers in the Squaw Gap area of Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana are now able to contact the outside world without having to rely on the two-way radios they have been using. In one giant step, the 100 ranchers in this 1,000 square mile area obtained the finest, single-party telephone service over buried lines. The cooperative serving Squaw Gap now provides modern telephone service to an area three times the size of Rhode Island.

USDA is involved in the Goldmark project, the project in Connecticut that was funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which deals with modern telecommunications in rural communities. Connecticut received $347,000 while the Windham Regional Planning Agency received $25,000. The prime contractor on this project is Fairfield University.

Transportation -- Transportation concerns tend to evolve around improved streets, highways, airport facilities and public transportation. Clinton County, Indiana, provides one example. A private nonprofit corporation owned a small airport near an industrial development area of the county seat town. Due to their large debt and poor management, the corporation was trying to sell the airport.

The Cooperative Extension Service developed information on experiences of similar counties with airports. County industrialists were interviewed. Comparative cost information on renovation of the existing airport versus constructing a new airport was developed. Tax rates required to support the airport were estimated. Information on State and Federal Aid was summarized. This was presented to the Clinton County Community Development Committee. Soon thereafter, the county purchased the airport and gave it to the city. The city appropriated funds to operate the facility.

Maryland offers another example. In Garrett County, the Coordinator for Concerted Services in Training and Education worked with local citizens and organizations to provide bus service to remote areas of the county. Although service is limited, residents in these areas have public transportation for the first time.

In Delaware, the Cooperative Extension Service helped the Wilmington Marine Terminal explore sources of funds for capital improvements, helped civic leaders evaluate a proposed interstate highway connector in Wilmington and helped the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce examine railroad commuter service between New Castle County and the Greater Philadelphia area.

The Acadiana Regional Airport in Iberia Parish, Louisiana, is being restored for use to stimulate agriculture, industry and recreation for the area. This is part of a Resource Conservation and Development plan which aims to retain and expand ten industries located there.

Fire Protection -- In Carroll County, New Hampshire, a fire suppression plan was prepared, 56 water impoundment sites were designated and were to include dry hydrants. In the last three years, ten of the sites were activated. This was a cooperative effort including the landowners, the fire precinct, the town, and the Soil Conservation Service.

The towns of Centennial and Little Laramie, Wyoming have new fire trucks, resulting from a local-State-Federal Fire Protection Plan initiated by the County Extension Agent. The program was modest but adequate. Volunteers played a big part in the success of the effort. Other communities now want to duplicate the feat.

Need for rural fire protection prompted action by citizens of Sheridan County, Kansas, which resulted in the formation of a Rural Fire District. The county RDC played an active part in this activity.

After several runs were made with heavy fire trucks to control prairie fires in rough grass land, it became apparent that the crews faced three major problems: (1) crossing ravines, (2) finding suitable roads through large pastures that covered several sections, and (3) locating supplemental water supplies when tanks were empty.

To help solve these problems, the Rural Development Committee decided to prepare a book of aerial maps of each area of the county. These show roads through the range lands and also the location of stock water ponds and other sources of water. There is now a map in each truck.

Trucks cannot be used in very rough areas, so four Jeeps obtained from the Extension Forestry Division have been equipped with water tanks and pressure sprayers.

Other Community Facilities -- One of the community facilities that has been assisted by the USDA at Pine View Junior High School in Louisiana, is the library facility. This library was inadequate since the school was converted from one grade level to another. Work was directed toward increasing the number of books for the new age level of students. The parish library now serves the school on a regular basis. This gives the students access to many volumes of new books.

The Monroe County, Tennessee, Board of Education owns 312 acres of land in the Tellico Mountain area. This land has been used only as a source of income from periodic timber sales. About a year ago, Tennessee Division of Forestry personnel suggested the school property be developed into an outdoor training center.

Personnel from the Tennessee Division of Forestry, Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service served as a committee to pursue the project. School officials were contacted, the area was surveyed and nature trails were laid out and developed. A forester from the Tennessee Division of Forestry marked, identified and prepared a description of various tree species along the trails. A soil scientist from SCS, a geologist from the Tennessee Valley Authority, and a botanist with the local college continued the process in their respective fields.

Once the groundwork had been completed, description sheets from the above-mentioned personnel were assembled into a single booklet, complete with maps indicating locations of all items described. These booklets were placed in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and passed out to school groups and other persons interested in studying natural elements in the outdoors.

The project was completed about two weeks before the county school dismissed for summer vacation. Therefore, only a few classes had an opportunity to tour the center. Other groups such as Boy Scouts, 4-H and civic clubs expected to use the facility in the summer. Upon returning to school, many school groups throughout the county are expected to visit and study the various features of the outdoor training center.

In Missouri, the need for another type of service in the area of construction of facilities became evident. Most of the small communities and counties in the State do not have "engineers". Therefore, it was found that the technical understanding of the requirements for construction and maintenance of streets and roads was almost completely nonexistent. An Extension short course is now offered on the basics of street and road construction.

The hundred mile Nicolet Snow Safari in Wisconsin is a locally sponsored snowmobile trail, specifically designed and developed. The trail provides a heretofore lacking economic base for six unincorporated communities in Northeastern Wisconsin.

The Soil Conservation Service helps rural communities make and implement decisions related to improving the quality and availability of community services and facilities. In FY 72, SCS technical and informational assistance increased by 32 percent over the previous year. These services included helping leaders determine potentials and alternatives for selecting public facility sites.

The Agricultural Research Service assisted rural and suburban areas in developing better means of utilizing and conserving water resources. Farm operations as well and agricultural processing facilities pursuing these inputs enhanced communities' well-being.

4. HOUSING

In recognition of the contribution which adequate housing can make to the development of rural areas, efforts to improve the quantity and quality of housing in such areas continued to be a primary concern of USDA agencies and State Rural Development Committees during the past year. Improved housing was also foremost among the concerns of rural communities themselves In previous years primary emphasis was given to ways of increasing the supply of housing. This continued to be a major concern in 1972, but ways of improving the surroundings associated with the housing and the maintenance of the house itself received increased attention. This is consistent with the national goal established by Congress more than 20 years ago of "a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family."

The number of occupied housing units in nonmetropolitan areas changed very little between 1960 and 1970. However, the number of substandard units was reduced substantially. A great deal of progress has been made, but much remains to be done. Our nonmetropolitan areas, with less than one-third of the Nation's housing, still have nearly twice as many sub-standard units as their urban neighbors.

Housing information and technical assistance provided by the USDA agencies became available to the public in numerous ways. Sometimes the results came from unified Departmental actions; and in other cases, the specific expertise of the agency came forth to supply the need. A variety of state and local government units and private sector representatives were directly related to the successful dissemination of this assistance and its incipient results.

Statistical Summary

In fiscal year 1972, FHA loaned $1,561 million to provide 112,182 family units of housing for rural America. All of this was supplemental to private credit sources. In the process of providing this credit, much information and technical assistance was given. This not only related to the clients of FHA but also to others who desired assistance on how to improve their housing.

In addition to the need for adequate sources of financing, such as FHA, there continues to be an urgent need for information and technical assistance among community leaders, public officials, builders, contractors, lenders and consumers that will help them understand the nature of the housing problems that exist and the contribution which adequate housing can make to the development of their areas. There is also need for information and technical assistance that will keep them abreast of pertinent developments in the housing field and will acquaint them with alternative methods for dealing with the problem.

In helping to meet these needs, USDA sponsored more than 4,500 workshops or conferences and participated in an additional 3,000 workshops or conferences for the benefit of public officials, community leaders and others having an interest in housing and in a position to influence the supply of housing in their respective areas. Assistance was provided in some measure to all nonmetropolitan counties. Special attention was given to the needs of low-income families, including Indians, migrant workers and the elderly, with increased emphasis on the organization and support of housing authorities and nonprofit corporations wishing to sponsor housing programs, on site selection and subdivision development and on the development of supporting water and sewer facilities. A wide range of specific assistance was provided, including such things as:

-- statewide housing education programs for builders, lenders, community leaders, and present or prospective homeowners.

-- inventories and surveys of housing needs.

-- organization of countywide and multicounty housing authorities.

-- counseling in money management and responsibilities of homeownership.

-- assisting in the development of housing programs for the elderly, including nursing homes.

-- pre-occupancy and post-occupancy training for homeowners using subprofessional aides.

-- development of rental housing projects in rural areas.

-- organization and support of self-help housing projects.

-- landscaping, zoning, land use and site development for the benefit of both consumers and developers.

-- improving quality and quantity of housing information through the mass media.

-- providing a full-range of information and technical assistance.

All together, USDA personnel in the various states expended more than 295 man-years in helping communities assess their housing needs and in undertaking specific programs to meet those needs. This was more than double the man-years devoted to this area in FY 71. In the process, nearly 9,200 publications of an informational and educational nature, along with more than 20,000 items for the news media were prepared and distributed.

Highlights and Examples

Technical assistance provided was aimed at the need and preference of the consumer. The Forest Service made marked progress in this area. The Forest Products Laboratory activities in Wisconsin continue to emphasize the area of low-cost housing, new and improved processes of manufacturing wood products, reduction of pollution, more effective use of wood resources, and the reduction of residue, recycling of fibrous material and other basic activities that contribute to the well-being of rural, as well as urban areas.

In 1971, 1,620 persons who had requested house plans were surveyed; 1,125 replies indicated that more than 225 houses had been built. Several contractors planned to build a large number of additional houses in subdivisions. The price varies mainly with size and extra cost modifications, but they generally run from $7,000 to $12,000 for these target areas.

Planning and material support was given to several exhibits for organizations serving rural areas such as the housing emphasis in an exhibit at Chicago for the National Association of Minority Contractors.

Forest Service worked with the Farmers Home Administration and Forest Products Trade Associations in providing information on residential housing foundations "The All-Weather Wood Foundation." This foundation was developed through joint research efforts sponsored by the Forest Service, the National Forest Products Association and the American Wood Preservative Institute. While applicable both to urban and rural situations, the foundation can be of particular value for rural housing since construction costs and delay caused by inclement weather are reduced.

An informational color movie of the construction sequence is available for use by rural area development groups and should provide valuable assistance in planning and providing better rural housing.

The Forest Service also coordinated low-cost wood house design with Tuskegee Institute which provided a variety of low-cost wood houses on Tuskegee Forest and Institute lands for public viewing.

The Slash Pine Area Planning and Development Commission of Georgia has done extensive planning for housing in its eight-county area. The purpose of the plan is to establish recommended action and approaches to be followed by local officials in satisfying housing needs. The means of providing low and moderate income housing within the planning areas is emphasized. Implementation proposals consider such factors as: housing conditions, land availability, and build ability, building trade capability, housing market, governmental policies and regulations, mortgage and construction financing, relocation needs and evaluation of progress in local housing planning. These reports have been made, completed and distributed.

A second seminar on the use of wood for housing in Puerto Rico was conducted by the Institute of Tropical Forestry in cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Puerto Rico Housing Agency. One hundred local engineers and architects attended, plus eight representatives from other Caribbean countries. As a result of the seminar, the Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration were authorized to grant loans on wood houses.

Housing is one of the top priority items for improving the welfare of the Alaskan natives. In the past years, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State located sawmills on the forested flood plains of the Yukon and Kiskokwin rivers that have provided building materials for housing.

But there was a need for periodic training on sawmill operation and maintenance. The Forest Service and the State Forester held training sessions and provided technical advice to keep many of these mills in operation. Lumber that is not needed in the village is sold to other villages to provide the natives with an additional economic base. The Forest Products technician has worked with the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Tlingit-Haida Council, furnishing them with low-cost housing plans and other technical advice. The District Ranger's offices in cooperation with the Farmers Home Administration provide people with information and assistance on rural housing.

A prototype house utilizing a new surface bonding for blocks technique was developed by the Agricultural Research Service. The new structure is utilized by migrant labor and/or by others for permanent dwellings. Researchers are now evaluating the structure's performance.

The Farmer Cooperative Service extends assistance for groups such as the National Council on Aging. During fiscal year 1972, FCS' most significant effort on housing was assisting the Coca Cola Company to establish cooperative housing for its field workers in Central Florida. The first 22 families moved into their new homes last fall. The company plans to develop three model communities for its workers in the area. The selling price of the homes ranges from $15,000 to $18,000.

State Rural Development Committees have singled out housing as an area of major concern in most States, but have approached it in a variety of ways. Some -- as in North Carolina and Mississippi -- have relied upon task forces or subcommittees with representation from various interest groups to take the lead in organizing and promoting efforts to provide better housing. In Mississippi, 50 of the 82 county Rural Development Committees have organized working groups that are actively engaged in housing. Comparable working groups have been organized in many North Carolina counties.

In Florida, Massachusetts and South Carolina, USDA agencies and Rural Development Committees have cooperated with and supported specific organizations and activities initiated by the respective Governors to improve the housing situation in their States.

In New York, a series of five regional conferences on housing was sponsored by Extension Service to help acquaint people with the need and alternate approaches and to assist in the organization of groups to effectively develop solutions. Over 200 people representing private and public agencies, as well as representatives of both producer and consumer groups, participated.

In Coffee County, Alabama, low-cost housing in rural areas is a scarce commodity. The County Rural Development Committee concluded that available resources were not being used fully to meet the existing need. An educational campaign was undertaken to stimulate interest and the use of available help.

Public meetings, newspaper articles and radio programs were used extensively to provide information throughout the county. As a result, it is anticipated that the Farmers Home Administration will finance at least 150 new homes during the year and other financial institutions will step up their lending activity.

Combined efforts, particularly of the Extension Service and the Farmers Home Administration, have led to what appear to be successful pilot projects for providing technical assistance in the responsibilities of homeownership to families who are recipients of FHA housing loans. The intiial project took place in the State of Washington. This was done by holding classes with specialists acting as instructors. Similar type assistance was given in Alabama and Oklahoma.

The work of the Baker Electric Cooperative of Cando, North Dakota in assisting the Indians on Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation at Belcourt has been a long and continuing effort. Electric service has been provided for many years to the reservation. The cooperative helped set up the Turtle Mountain Builders and Supply Company, a firm principally owned by the Indians. The firm negotiated with the BIA for financing to construct 19 new homes at Belcourt and with Turtle Mountain Housing Authority for loans to finance 200 more homes to be built during 1970-72. The cooperative furnished used poles to construct a factory building where the new homes are prefabricated. Most of the new homes will have underground electric service provided by the cooperative.

People in Marshall County, Mississippi determined from the Census and an Economic Development Report that housing was the most pressing need. Meetings were held and eligible families were identified. During 1972, 94 housing loans have been approved.

At Prattsville, Arkansas, some families were living in very restricted quarters. These families, with the assistance of the FHA Superivsor, located property but without water or natural gas. After substantial discussion with the city of Prattsville, these services were made available and the houses were built. The area is developing nicely and more houses are being provided.

The Imlay area of Michigan has its residents working toward completing 16 new housing rental units. They are to be finished in the fall. Again, this accomplishment is encouraging other communities to achieve improved housing.

When one community in need shows a way to satisfy it, other communities get interested. At Guilford County, Maine, over the last several years progress in senior citizen housing has been made. Now with over 40 units built, many good economic effects are observable. Younger families find the large homes which the older people vacate of ideal size for rearing their children. The tax base has increased by one-half million of taxable property, and there is increased purchases of goods and services.

A vertically integrated poultry operation in Decatur, Arkansas, was having difficulty holding its employees. They had to travel long distances to work. Because of this problem, an interested group of local people purchased an 80 acre tract and proceeded to build homes to satisfy the need. FHA conditional commitments proved the way to get this project started.

In Northeast Missouri, rental housing units for senior citizens were developed with the aid of FHA which amounted to 12 nonprofit projects in eight counties.

In Ohio, near Byesville, three tracts of land are being acquired for medium and low-income family housing. A soil survey has been completed. The engineers are developing feasibility studies. The development group has discussed FHA financing.

The Alaska Rural Development Committee has pursued coordination of housing improvement programs and the publication of a list of materials to be used in housing development.

In Arizona, housing development for the Indians takes job development through crafts into account. Flood control through REAP helps stabilize the area for building. The Navajo Contracting Company has been established to build houses in the area.

In Illinois, the new technology of modular housing is having an impact on home building. FHA and HUD participated in a seminar that tackled the problems of financial institutions and real estate people as they relate to new development.

Iowa's major reported thrust has been in housing for the aged. This was sparked by the Governor's Conference on Aging.

In Kentucky, a blighted area in Anderson County was targeted for action. A plan involving 63 lake lots is being carried out. Local financial institutions and labor are utilized to the maximum extent possible. A similar situation is being corrected in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana.

In St. Marys County, Maryland, it is estimated that 21 percent of the houses are in deteriorating or dilapidated condition. Yet, residents must pay from $32 to $181 rent per month. Efforts by many groups have attempted to deal with the housing problem in St. Marys County.

A major breakthrough came with the incorporation of a private, nonprofit housing corporation which purchased land for 90 housing units to be built on a self-help plan. A Self-Help Housing Program has enabled low-income residents to occupy three to four bedroom homes for $13,000. These same homes would sell commercially for $20,000 to $23,200. Cooperation and self-help construction reduced the costs.

The project is a joint effort sponsored by Federal and State agencies -- Farmers Home Administration and a local church group. A director and master builder has been employed to supervise the project.

The Cooperative Extension Service has provided continual guidance and support for this project. An Extension Agent has been recognized as "an important aid to the project." In addition to working with the residents in the construction phase of the program, the aide provides pre-and post-occupancy training for the owners. Fourteen homes were completed and occupied. Sixteen others are in the process of being funded. The program is designed to build 90 new homes.

At Lone Grove, Carter County, Oklahoma, new housing became a major need since the Uniroyal Tire Company was placing a plant in the area. Nearly 1,300 families were associated with this new plant. As a result of local leadership, housing and other demands are being met. The population of the town has increased from 750 to 1,200 over the last five years. New homes are being completed daily and more families are moving into the area. Specific improvements include 140 new homes completed, new elementary school, new post office, two new churches, new water and sewer system, new volunteer fire department, and at least four new businesses.

5. HEALTH AND WELFARE

As noted in Section 3, a major need in Rural Development is improvement of community services and facilities. Ranking high in terms of need are better health and welfare delivery systems. USDA agencies, working with State Rural Development Committees and local people, have expended considerable effort in the past year on many aspects of health and welfare problems. The shortage in rural areas of health manpower and facilities is especially acute in low-income and sparsely settled counties and among the elderly population. With the assistance of USDA personnel, however, ways have been found in many communities across the country to bring in needed doctors, establish hospitals, plan for day care centers, or embark on sanitation programs for proper waste disposal.

One of the most hopeful signs to emerge during the year was the added emphasis given to cooperative planning and development programs in many communities engaged in comprehensive health planning. By joining together to meet a mutual need, counties and small towns have stretched their own resources and qualified for State technical or financial assistance. Comprehensive planning enables a community or county to analyze a particular problem in relation to other problems or needs, establish priorities, examine alternatives, and proceed with informed decisions about what must be done. Federal and State agencies stand by to help.

Statistical Summary

USDA agencies assisted with 4,000 different health and welfare projects in FY 1972. The kinds of activities varied among the States, but the principal thrust in health care was for increased health manpower, additional health facilities and improved sanitation systems. In the field of welfare the focus was mainly on providing day care centers and helping low-income and elderly people. Additional areas of concern included mental health, drug abuse and safety measures. Ambulance service, centers for senior citizens and other social services also claimed considerable attention.

To implement rural development activities in health and welfare, nearly 800 surveys and feasibility studies were carried out, more than 10,000 workshops, conferences, and other meetings were held, and over 700,000 publications were distributed. In addition, nearly 10,000 news articles and other presentations were prepared for media outlets. The total number of man-years devoted to the field of health and welfare by USDA agencies was a little over 200, a small increase over FY 71.

Highlights and Examples

In a rural county in Alabama, where medical facilities and personnel are critically deficient, USDA cooperated with the University of Alabama Medical School in training local volunteers to administer standard health checks in clinics at local schools. Referrals were then made to appropriate medical facilities when justified. In this "Community Health Profile Program," 300 school children were examined and numerous ailments identified which required treatment.

A cooperative effort was undertaken in Northeastern Connecticut with USDA assistance, in which 10 towns, with very little expenditure of their own funds, are laying plans to improve public health and the environment, as well as prevent future sanitation problems in their communities. With State financial assistance available, and cooperation from State and regional agencies, each town in the health district would have the help of trained sanitarians, medical directors and other health personnel, as well as inspectors to support zoning and anti-pollution measures. The proposed program has been deemed financially feasible and nine of the 10 towns favor the establishment of such a health district.

Another cooperative effort is proceeding in a three-county rural area in Missouri where a hospital is needed. Local citizens raised more than $300,000, civic clubs and local governments in all three counties supported the project, and location of the new facility, with adequate financing and management, has been decided.

A county committee in Delaware helped to develop and establish a day care center for the children of working mothers. Included in this project will be an expanded program for senior citizens and community health facilities.

Iowa has embarked on a broad-gauged program, with the assistance of USDA agencies, in health care and services for the aged. Viewing the geographic distribution of health personnel and services in the State as very inadequate, and showing no improvement in recent years, Federal, State, and local agencies have set goals to: enlarge training programs of health personnel, help with area-wide health planning and programs, establish needed facilities, and give attention to the special needs of the aged through community committees and outreach activity. Looking at comparative rural-urban accident and fatality statistics, they have also decided that provision of community ambulance services, with trained personnel and adequate equipment, could help to reduce the unfavorable rural ratio of fatalities.

The Illini Electric Cooperative of Champaign, Illinois, an REA borrower, serves in and around the twin cities of Champaign-Urbana, a metropolitan area of some 120,000 population.

In the nearby town of Gifford, population 1,200, there was a pressing need for a community health service. Working closely with the Lions Club of Gifford and other community leaders, the manager of the Cooperative was successful in helping establish Country Health, Inc., a combination nursing home and clinic. With a capacity for 64 patients, and office space for two doctors and a dentist, the new facility boasts topflight medical machinery and has an assessed value of nearly $1 million. It provides jobs for some 50 local people.

Like most successful projects, the new clinic didn't happen overnight. The idea began in 1966, and took a combination of community interests and support to make it a reality. The electric co-op helped raise funds and sold subscriptions of $750 each which could be used for $1,000 in medical

care at the new facility over a 20-year period. Should the certificate not be used, it can be redeemed for $1,000 at the end of the 20-year period.

Besides helping with fund raising, the cooperative helped secure a site for the nursing home, shared in its advertising costs, and provided office space and clerical help during the planning stages. When the building was completed, the co-op donated $3,000 worth of furnishings for its offices, and installed underground electric service at no cost to Country Health, Inc.

Activity of the Jerauld County, South Dakota Rural Development Committee resulted in the procurement of a county health nurse. The county commissioners, with the cooperation of the State of South Dakota, hired a full-time registered nurse and provided space in the county courthouse for a full line of county health nurse activities and services.

Office space and part of the salary is paid by the county, part of the salary comes from State funds and part of the salary and supplies from Medicare. This contributes a much-needed service to the rural area. Among health and welfare benefits provided: free school health clinics, medical care for the aged in the convenience of their own homes and low-cost services to welfare recipients. Schools and workshops on drugs, maternity care and other health topics are also conducted.

6. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

More jobs for people who want to live in small towns and rural areas have been a prime thrust of the Rural Development effort. The various agencies of the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Deaprtment of Labor and other Federal and State agencies, have been active in this area. USDA personnel serve on regional, State and local Cooperative Area Manpower Planning System (CAMPS) committees to assist in the development of applicable manpower training projects. A few of the many activities in which USDA personnel have worked with local leadership are as follows:

-- Program Planning to involve rural residents in education, training, and job development.

-- Establishing Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA) training classes in various skills.

-- Operating 20 Job Corps conservation centers in cooperation with the Department of Labor.

-- Organizing and assisting in the activation of Concerted Services in Training and Education (CSTE) projects.

-- Providing training under the Work Incentives Program (WIN), and working with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Green Thumb and other Operation Mainstream-type programs adaptable to rural areas.

-- Assisting in the development of child care centers.

-- Supporting the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) employment for school youth.

-- Developing programs to train people in tractor driving, woodworking and many other farm-related skills.

-- Working with HUD in Model Cities training efforts and assisting Councils of Government and Economic Development District personnel in planning more effective use of rural manpower.

-- Assisting in the training of employees for sewage treatment plants and other environmental protection-related programs.

-- Participating with U. S. Department of Labor and State Employment representatives in a plan (Operation Hitchhike) for developing manpower services in rural areas.

Statistical Summary

USDA personnel have spent over 360 man-years working in the programs with States and local leaders in the area of manpower development, job training and education, that have created almost 2 million man-days of employment during FY 72. This compares with 90 man-years in FY 71.

Highlights and Examples

The Forest Service has provided work training and experience in the various manpower programs under the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare. In Mississippi, Rural Development Committees have cooperated in developing job opportunities to alleviate unemployment and underemployment in rural areas. They have provided informational service to rural residents so that they could take advantage of training and retraining programs offered by the institutions and the Department of Labor in several sections of the State.

In Minnesota, the Forest Service continues to cooperate in a Youth Conservation Corps Program involving more than 100 Minnesota youth in cooperation with Bemidji State College.

In Utah, the Salt Lake Ranger District reports that during the past two summers, well over 300 young people have been meaningfully employed through various types of work in National Forests. These programs include Model Cities, Youth Conservation Corps, NYC, Operation SPARE and the David County Development.

In Louisiana, a secretarial school is sponsored by the Livingston Parish Rural Development Committee. The courses are provided for those people who cannot get this type of training any other way.

In New Mexico, through a contract with the Home Education Livelihood Program, employees of the USDA are provided basic education during their duty hours. This training prepares them to take and pass a high school equivalency test.

At least 10 county Rural Development Committees in Alabama have assumed the local responsibility for manpower and provide inputs into the State Manpower Planning Council. Specialized assistance is also being provided to CAMPS Committees in Connecticut, Florida, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and West Virginia. Surveys have been conducted and improved training opportunities and organizational help have been provided to these committees.

A significant accomplishment of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council during FY 72 was the role it played in the development of manpower and forestry resources in the loblolly pine forests of the lower Eastern Shore. Forty-six percent of Maryland is classified as commercial forest land, and these pines are among the most productive. The Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Maryland, an MRAC member, has conducted studies which reveal landowner interest in forest management in the area to be a priority concern. Much of this concern is caused by the fact that rehabilitation of cutover forest lands was not proceeding at a rate which would allow

maximum utilization of the potential of the forests. This difficulty was compounded by the need for manpower to do actual tree planting and other cultural work not possible by using farm machinery.

This multi-faceted dilemma required a coordinated multiple agency and individual approach for appropriate action. The resources of MRAC provided the vehicle for this action. Through discussion and MRAC member interaction and cooperation, resources were funneled into the area which gave needed assistance to 49 farms in the area and established a revolving fund that may be called upon to enlarge the assistance program as needed. Through concerted action at the State level, landowners of the area had reserve funds made available to them to employ work crews assembled specifically for the rehabilitation of this forest land. Thus, landowners and formerly migrant labor crews benefited directly from the effort. Another direct, but less immediate, benefit accrued to the region as a whole as the forests are now being properly managed, insuring future balanced economic growth.

The Kent County, Delaware, Resource Development Committee has been working diligently on new projects to better utilize existing resources in the county. The committee initiated a tree planting service to all landowners. FFA youth chapters provided the manpower. The need for this planting service was realized in a Resource Development Committee meeting. It was explained that requests for tree planting were continually on the increase, but the difficulty came with the lack of manpower to physically plant the trees. The thought of using youth groups to do the planting was suggested and had overwhelming acceptance.

Through the committee members, with special assistance from the State Department of Agriculture, a pilot project was started in the fall of 1971, and expanded through the fall planting season and got off to an excellent start again the following spring. One planting crew from Sussex Vocational Technical Center has now expanded to three, along with crews from Laurel and Milford high schools. This has given some 20 to 25 youth a chance to gain experience in forest principles, along with making money for their youth groups and some individual monetary gains. The youth have been anxious for this opportunity and the landowners are satisfied with their performance. It looks as if the project is going to expand to include more youth and to provide landowners tree planting for the future.

The Department of Agriculture serves as the coordinating agency for a local-Federal-State cooperative effort know as Concerted Services in Training and Education (CSTE). There are 18 program areas in 14 States. Reports indicate that twice as many rural people are participating in one or more education, training, or job development activities in the CSTE areas as in other similar areas in the same States. For example, during the month of June in the Eastern Arkansas area, 412 people were engaged in special training, education and job development activities and 338 were placed in new jobs during this month.

A manpower inventory conducted in the DeKalb, Illinois area by Kishwaukee College (a two-year community college) was initiated under the CSTE project because of needs created by the rapid adjustments in agriculture and the growing business, industrial and professional job opportunities in the area.

The survey consisted of three phases: (1) a manpower questionnaire was mailed to 26,740 households, (2) 1,203 individuals were interviewed from 566 randomly selected households and (3) 95 randomly selected farmers were interviewed and a survey of employement needs of 689 business establishments was made. The survey was conducted during July and August 1971. A report was published in December 1971.

This CSTE project resulted from a proposal developed by local citizens with Extension help. The manpower inventory was suggested by the citizen committee.

The inventory was conducted by staff and students of Kishwaukee College in cooperation with the Illinois State Employment Service and funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor, Rural Manpower Service. Local news media, local organizations and business groups supported the survey.

As a result of the manpower inventory, one industry that planned to move decided to stay and expanded its employment from 800 to 1,000; another plant currently employing 80 people is planning to expand to employ over 400; and the Illinois Migrant Council states that this area has more information on migrant needs and is doing more to meet these needs than any other in the State.

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor have developed plans for the delivery of manpower services to residents of rural areas through a cooperative effort know as "Hitchhike." State Cooperative Extension Service and State Employment Service personnel make information counseling and job referral services available. For example, in Algona, Iowa, during the April-June quarter, 286 job applications were received. Of these, 226 were referred for training or employment and 77 were placed in nonagricultural jobs. Similar activities took place in the other 13 States participating in this cooperative rural manpower program.

7. RECREATION AND TOURISM

Considerable emphasis is being given by agencies of the Department to improve recreation and tourism throughout the country. Local recreation commissions, special interest groups and State and local communities have been assisted in their coordination of recreational needs and opportunities. Using the delivery system of the Rural Development Committees and agencies of the Department, community officials were acquainted with the various State and Federal programs that they could use to improve and develop recreational opportunities. Surveys were conducted, planning documents improved and recommendations provided to officials who could implement action programs to develop year-long recreation facilities and opportunities to attract tou ists.

State, multicounty and county rural development committees have provided information, technical advice and educational material needed by the local citizenry and officials to assist them in making wise decisions on the use of natural resources.

Extension, Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service have assisted many local organizations in inventorying their public and private recreational facilities. These agencies are cooperating with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in zoning recommendations and information that will improve recreational use and distribution to relieve periodic impacts.

One of the techniques used by several States this year is "hospitality clinics" on tourism. The purpose of hospitality clinics are to (1) promote a better understanding of tourism, (2) acquaint employees with the needs and desires of tourists and (3) assist with the coordinating and constant improving of training and services of employees. At least 10 States held these kinds of hospitality clinics this year, reaching several thousand waitresses, service station employees and owners of small tourist businesses. Product improvement of the tourism sales package is the idea behind hospitality clinics. A great deal of management training was also given to tourism from specialists and a great deal of organizational help was given to tourism associations.

Statistical Summary

During FY 72, the Department provided 225 man-years of assistance in recreation and tourism projects. This compares to 217 man-years in FY 72. A total of 10,420 local community groups and recreational projects were assisted and more than 9,000 recreation meetings or workshops were conducted or supported. The Department of Agriculture assisted with

2,209 feasibility studies of public and private recreational projects, many of which were requested by the Department of Commerce. In addition, 6,306 news articles on recreation and 1,222,320 bulletins and newsletters were provided and distributed on recreation and tourism.

Highlights and Examples

In Kentucky, USDA agencies are working with individual communities and groups of communities toward benefiting the Cave-Run, Laurel, Red River and Salt Lake Resource Development. The foregoing are of potentially great significance to the entire eastern section of Kentucky and will provide an enormous uplift in the economy of this rural area.

In Wisconsin, the Forest Service and other organizations have assisted Price County in the development of a three-year snowmobile recreational plan.

The Extension Service in Hawaii has catalogued and published a bulletin on the National Parks and Monuments. They are also working with local people on the Sea Grant Program that will make the seashore a more enjoyable place.

In Virginia, after a local Lions Club learned through the Rural Development Committee about the Forest Service outdoor pattern for people program, they envisioned a trail for the visually handicapped. A cooperative agreement was made with all Lion Clubs in the area. Support was given, funds were allocated and the trail constructed. The Lions trail for the visually handicapped is now open to the general public through the efforts of the RDC.

The northwest Louisiana Tourist Association was recently formed. Twelve parishes have banded together to raise funds and have instituted programs that are increasing their tourist incomes.

The Clinton County Rural Development Committee participated in the development of a plan for a 180-mile snowmobile tract in Pennsylvania. The trail is located in an area that derived a portion of its income from outdoor recreation.

The State Forester in Kansas has employed a landscape architect to work with local communities in developing parks and recreational plans. To date, assistance has been given to 66 communities, agencies and organizations in this small-town community forestry program.

The Soil Conservation Service prepared a report,"Opportunities for Recreation in Montana," at the request of the Montana Rural Areas

Development Committee. The report has had extensive use in Montana. Direct benefits, monetary and otherwise, have great potential and may well provide one of the major opportunities for development, jobs and income and quality of living. The role of the State Rural Areas Development Committee was in the preparation and distribution of the report with assistance from county USDA committees and other agencies and organizations.

Oregon State University extended the services of several academic disciplines to a small, rural community in Southwestern Oregon (Myrtle Creek) and developed a much-needed park plan. The Extension Service, using the time and talents of the University, was able to solve a critical community problem while effectively teaching students park planning and design. Upon completion of the master plan by the students, they presented the project to the citizens of Myrtle Creek. Paramount in the recommendations was the importance of getting the community involved in financial support, construction, care and use of the park. The park model is now on display in city hall and plans are being made for implementation.

The Farmers Home Administration and Extension Service in North Carolina sponsored four meetings on recreational assistance available to individuals and groups. About 225 people participated in the workshops that involved several agencies and experts who knew the recreational resources of the area.

At the request of the Industrial Development and Park Department of Oklahoma, the State USDA Rural Development Committee encouraged the county committees to assist in collecting information for the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The survey forms were sent out to the county chairmen. Followup contacts were made to help in a few cases, interpreting the forms and to provide followup in getting the form returned to the Industrial Development and Park Department. These forms were returned to the Department, which edited and compiled the information and published two volumes as a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The Oklahoma USDA Rural Development Committee provided the cooperation that helped expedite the survey.

Through the efforts of agencies represented on the State Rural Development Committee, the Upper Savannah, South Carolina Regional Planning and Development Council and sponsors of the "96" Resource Conservation and Development Project, an inventory and potential for outdoor recreation has been developed for this six-county area. Local groups, including each of the six Soil and Water Conservation Districts, actively participated in inventorying present recreational facilities, needs and potentials. This study will be the basis for developing a plan for the orderly development of both private and public recreational facilities to meet

both current and future needs without costly duplication of effort. The Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council plans to proceed with the development of the recreational plan for the area.

Much has been done in the area of watersheds for recreation. In Kansas, for example, there are now 19 large Federal reservoirs in operation with two more under construction. Extension forestry staff has assisted the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation in reforestation, youth education and development of public areas.

The Community Resource Development (CRD) specialists working with the Mayor and Park Board of Piedmont, Missouri initiated a study of the opportunities for park and recreation development in the city of Piedmont. The CRD agents helped the park board and planners to hold a public forum to provide opportunities for groups and individuals to express ideas on types of recreation and park facilities and possible sites for location. From this came a massive plan that reflects the concerns of local residents. It is immediately being put into practice.

The CRD workers in Nevada worked with the Elko County Fair and Recreation Board on a feasibility study of recreation potential of the Corps of Engineers reservoir in the county. The plan was completed July 1, 1972 and the county will be using this in discussions with local citizens and Corps of Engineers and to determine the feasibility of developing these reservoirs for recreational purposes.

The Soil Conservation Service assisted the Pecos Valley development in New Mexico in improving a recreational area. Assistance was provided in developing a plan which received the support of several volunteer groups and the State. Fishery resources improved dramatically and three man-years of employment has resulted. A similar effort was accomplished in Escambia County, Florida.

In Iowa and Kansas, the Farmers Home Administration has provided specialized assistance in helping several farmers prepare financial plans and obtain loans to develop private recreational parks and overnight camping facilities.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Improvement of environmental conditions in rural areas is essential to a better quality of life in rural America. The Department contributes significantly to environmental protection through its conservation practices, Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), Cooperative Forest Management, solid waste disposal, land-use planning and landscape improvement assistance.

A major contribution of USDA in FY 1972 was the issuance of an Environmental Thrust Handbook. This Handbook outlines 22 projects that local people can perform in their communities and that will improve their environment. Considerable progress and action have resulted through this effort which was spearheaded by State and local Rural Development Committees.

Statistical Summary

During FY 1972 the Department personnel provided environmental protection assistance to communities and groups on more than 28,100 separate projects. This assistance included 3,777 surveys and studies and over 20,000 meetings, workshops and conferences directly concerned with environmental protection and enhancement. Considerable attention and effort were devoted to programs of information and education to inform rural residents of pollution problems, landscape improvement opportunities and ways in which communities and citizens could help themselves with Federal and other sources of assistance.

Over 47,000 news articles were prepared for use in newspapers and periodicals. Distribution of publications explaining the importance of various types of environmental protection totaled almost 31 million copies.

Highlights and Examples

Several agencies of the Department provide technical assistance and information to States and local units of government in the management of resources toward meeting a quality standard for sustained use without degradation of the environment. As an example of this, in Minnesota the Cushing road beautification project determined that six miles of county road had a sedimentation problem. After critical slopes were stabilized, 3,000 trees and shrubs of 19 different varieties were planted. The critical areas were seeded and mulched. The labor was provided by Green Thumb crews. The County Highway Department furnished the heavy equipment and the Charles Weyerhauser Foundation furnished funds for planting materials. Results were a reduction in lake sedimentation, decreased maintenance and beautification.

In Virginia solid waste disposal has been a particular problem in Carroll County for many years. A sanitary landfill was developed through the

cooperation of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Extension Service, Health Department, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Soil Waste and Vector Control, State Water Control Board and interested citizens.

In order for Indiana to comply with State laws regarding open dumps, all counties are completing plans of converting to sanitary landfills. Along with the location of sanitary landfill sites comes the problem of solid waste collection. Four Indiana counties - Vanderburgh, Lawrence, Perry and Jennings - have not only used the SCS soil interpretation in locating sanitary landfill sites, but they have also used SCS assistance in locating countryside collection points for waste pickup.

In West Virginia researchers at the Princeton Forest Service Laboratory are experimenting with bark residues as mulches to control erosion and establish cover for highway cut/fill slopes, surface mines, spoil banks and similar disturbed or eroding sites. Extension and the Forest Service have accelerated efforts to inform the public on uses of bark and residues so that commercial development can take place. This will undoubtedly help the rural economy and reduce environmental pollution.

In the State of Nebraska, USDA personnel and the State Forester are providing continued assistance to the Arbor Day Foundation in its nationwide effort to promote tree planting. USDA agencies are deeply involved in environmental education training. One example of this is in Blackwater State Forest, near Pensacola, Florida where an environmental training center is under construction.

In Mississippi the State Forestry Commission, working through a systematic annual aerial survey, has been able to develop a reporting system to keep abreast of insect and disease outbreaks in the State. The citizens of Mississippi are keenly interested in these reports. Salvage cuts and harvest operations are recommended and technical assistance is given to reduce adverse environmental impact.

The residents of northeast Missouri, having heard much about what was happening to the environment in the United States and throughout the world, decided to do something about it. Working through the Mark Twain Rural Development Committee, they decided on a can recycling community project. American Can Company of St. Louis offered to buy the cans. They also donated the promotion costs, the site, labor and freight to forward cans to the mill processors who would recycle the cans and re-use them in the metal industry.

The Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming conducted a feasibility study for the proposed Kennaday Peck Ski Area which would have a potential capacity of 2,500 to 3,000 skiers. State of Wyoming, Carbon County Commissioners, Forest Service and the Southern Wyoming Development group are cooperating in this endeavor. This particular National Forest has also entered into a cooperative agreement with Carbon County for construction of a primary access road which will increase tourism and provide improved transportation for rural residents.

The Alaska Rural Development Council has focused its attention on waste management as related to processing wastes and their disposal. This problem is of significant concern to the marine industry. As a result of a special study and consideration by both industrial representatives and public agencies, a continued interagency effort is underway to expand research and modify, where appropriate, regulations that govern disposal processes.

Building of waste disposal sewage lagoons for farmers with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service help has been an extremely important activity in Delaware, Illinois, Mississippi and Vermont.

Providing first-hand environmental education during the summer for 8,000 elementary school-age children from the metropolitan Kansas City area was the ambitious goal of the Miami, Kansas, County Rural Development Committee. A 102-acre heavily-timbered tract was developed with considerable citizen participation. Similar action took place in South Dakota and West Virginia.

9. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Department personnel provide direct and supportive services to communities and industry to create new or expanded jobs in rural America. USDA services to communities include assisting individuals, groups, cities and towns, counties, and larger units of government inventory their resources. USDA and Extension employees help analyze, plan, develop and implement programs and projects for business and industrial development. Services are offered to communities to prepare for the establishment of business and the identification of industrial sites. Included are surveys of the need for the improvement of transportation and communication systems, and development of utilities and other community facilities, many of which can be funded by existing USDA programs.

Equally important is helping local citizens develop attitudes and capabilities to carry out job-creating activities, including assisting in the formation of local development corporations, industrial development groups, development committees and other citizen groups. The educational process of making citizens and local leaders aware of the requirements of business and industry are in many instances a requisite activity prior to any actual job-creating projects. An awareness of the necessity of having an attractive community, proper attitude and adequate public facilities is of prime importance.

Direct assistance to new or expanding industries and businesses includes resolving managerial, technical, personnel and fiscal problems. An important aspect of direct assistance is finding individuals with special technical knowledge from within Federal and State government, private industry and the academic community who can help communities with business and industrial development. USDA employees help entrepreneurs locate sources of financing at the Federal and State levels of government and lenders in the private sector. In many instances USDA people help by gathering backup data and assisting in filling out loan application forms. Economic feasibility studies are sometimes prepared relating to specific industries or specific geographic areas. Many demonstrate feasibility and result in the creation of new employment opportunities.

The Nation's economy produces between 150,000 and 200,000 manufacturing jobs each year. Estimates vary, but 1/2 to 2/3 of these basic employment opportunities are being established in rural areas each year. A recent example is the study by the Appalachian Regional Commission showing that 64 percent of the new manufacturing employment in Appalachia and 67.8 percent of the new or expanded plants in 1971 were located in counties which have no cities of more than 25,000 population.

The programs and services of the Department contribute significantly to creation of industrial and business development projects and acceptance of industrial growth in rural areas, thus accelerating the trend of decentralization of economic activity which is providing jobs for nonmetropolitan Americans.

Statistical Summary

In carrying out technical assistance and informational activities during fiscal year 1972, Department personnel throughout the Nation assisted communities or groups interested in business and industrial development with 7,973 industrial or business projects; participated in or conducted over 7,000 meetings, workshops or conferences and carried out more than 1,900 surveys or feasibility studies. Approximately 175 man-years were devoted to this activity, compared to 117 in FY 71.

In order to reach the widest possible audience, 13,618 news articles and more than 1,400 fact sheets, newsletters and other materials were prepared, with a distribution of more than 359,000. Over 1,900 radio and 275 television broadcasts, announcements and spots were prepared to support and encourage industrial and business development in rural America.

Highlights and Examples

A film and a report to encourage industrial development activity in rural areas were made available through USDA agencies for national use. The film had as its purpose the introduction of the basic rural economic development processes and principles; the promotion of benefits of rural America for industrial development and the motivation of local citizenry in rural communities to take the necessary steps for making their community attractive to industry. The report related the generally favorable experience, opinions and attitudes of company officials and community leaders related to the location of branch plants in rural areas.

Following an industrial conference in which USDA personnel participated in Arizona, the local Cooperative Extension Community Development Specialist found that the city wanted to have a complete study made to determine appropriate industrial sites. The specialist contacted the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of Arizona. A student was discovered who wanted some development experience. Between the town, the college and the student, an agreement was reached. The work done by the student resulted in an active industrial development program in Wilcox. Because of the excellent job the student did, he was hired by the Arizona State Department of Economic Planning and Development as a community development specialist.

Small producers in Taylor County, Florida, are enjoying additional income as a result of the newly established curb market in Perry. The production of vegetables and small fruits in this area has not been great enough in the past to attract large buyers or to maintain an efficient commercial marketing facility. As a result, surplus produce went unused on the small farms while residents in Perry often lacked adequate supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Agriculture and Forestry Committee of the Taylor County Improvement Council recognized the existing situation and explored the possiblity of action on the problem. In late winter, 1972, several meetings were held to discuss the proposed farmer curb market. The project was publicized by the local newspaper. A survey form was mailed to small farmers in the county and the response was excellent. About 40 interested citizens met and formed an action committee. This group took responsibility for securing a market place, establishing rules and guidelines and publicizing the entire operation. The Perry City Council and Recreation Department offered use of the city park as a location for the market with no charge to the participants.

The Taylor County Development Committee supported this venture from the beginning and was responsible for initiation of the project. The County Extension Director and Extension Resource Economist helped in the planning and survey work and served in an advisory capacity in establishing operating procedures.

The market opened in May, 1972 and has been popular with producers needing an outlet for surplus commodities. It has been well supported by townspeople seeking a source of high quality fruit and vegetables. An average of 10 to 12 sellers participate in the market each Tuesday and Friday. Total sales per day have been averaging more than $150. Participants are already talking in terms of an even larger operation next year.

Some time ago a manufacturing plant at Crawfordsville, Indiana burned and discontinued operations, causing a loss of 150 jobs, predominantly from the surrounding rural areas. Assistance from USDA personnel was requested by the Crawfordsville Economic Development Commission. This included searching for new factory sites and required soil interpretations showing the suitability of soils for industrial facilities at the various sites identified. As a result, a new plant to manufacture travel trailers is in oeration with an employment of 100 people scheduled within two years. A $3 million plant to manufacture corrugated shipping containers will add a payroll of approximately $1 million per year for 100 employees to the local economy. The combined employment of the two new plants at Crawfordsville will exceed that of the burned-out plant and means that prospects for employment in Montgomery County are good.

The Center for Economic Development at North Dakota State University provides technical assistance to private firms, community organizations, and individuals in portions of North Dakota. Six counties and four Indian reservations scattered geographically throughout the State form the service region for the Center. Center assistance may take the form of consultation, research, specific feasibility studies and educational workshops related to both the expansion of economic activity and the stabilization of existing businesses and industry. Most Center projects involved technical assistance to Indian reservations. Seventeen on-going projects were being conducted as of February, 1972.

Maine is a State of extensive forest industries. Maine mills using hardwood or softwood logs or bolts (other than those in the paper industry) need methods of drying the raw wood at varying points in the manufacturing process. With limited personnel, Extension forestry staff have selected education in wood-drying techniques as a major contribution to efficiency of forest industries. Six three-day short courses have been conducted since 1967 in training of personnel from the wood industries in kiln-drying, and five single-day workshops are planned for supplementary training in early fiscal 1973. Invitations are sent to all forest industries in Maine and announcements are relayed to other areas of the Northeast and Canada through the technical press. Fees are charged only to defray expenses of the conferences. Also participating in the workshops are the Maine Forestry Department, Forest Service, the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association and other trade organizations. The forest industries support the program in part by payment of fees and by aiding in the instruction programs.

Alabama county RDCs actively pursue industrial development. Inventories and economic feasibility studies are prepared with Extension assistance and made available to potential industrial clients. As an example, Extension performed a preliminary economic evaluation of the opportunities for developing additional lumber finishing facilities in East Central Alabama. This contributed to a $500,000 expansion of a wood products firm located in the study area.

In Louisiana, the Extension Service, through the county agents, conducted a statewide survey of vacant buildings suitable for industrial use. Pertinent information about the buildings was compiled and turned over to the State Department of Commerce and Industry. As a result of this effort, local committees were formed in several communities to attempt to attract an industry. This inventory has been very helpful and has served to locate seven new industries in rural areas during the past year. Parish agents in a number of parishes serve on local development board. Training meetings have been conducted in several communities to help local persons understand the necessary ingredients of an Industrial Development Committee or Board.

Kentucky Extension workers provided significant assistance to 25 industrial development committees with organization and training, 25 with securing or developing industrial sites and 13 with direct solicitation of new industries. These resulted in 1,403 acres of new industrial sites being secured in 22 different sites. Extension workers helped six industrial development corporations with financing plans and seven with leader training involving 95 leaders. Individual assistance was given to 139 industrial development leaders. Fifty-four business managers were assisted in obtaining management assistance through the University of Kentucky College of Business and Economics' Office of Business Development.

The Wenatchee, Washington, Community Action Council and the local RD Committee sponsored the establishment of Mini-Industries, Inc. The Forest Service reports that the firm is producing a cruiser's vest. The design was supplied by the Forest Service North Cascade Smokejumper Base.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COOPERATIVES

The cooperative form of business organization has provided people living in small communities with the opportunity to combine limited resources to obtain marketing facilities, supplies, production and processing equipment, and other services needed to improve their income and the quality of rural living.

Statistical Summary

During fiscal year 1972, research, technical, and educational assistance was provided by Farmer Cooperative Service and other USDA agencies to nearly 1400 cooperative development projects throughout the country. This assistance included approximately 270 surveys and feasibility studies for rural groups considering establishing new cooperatives or for existing cooperatives planning additional services.

In addition, 2,385 meetings, workshops, and conferences relating to cooperative development were either conducted or attended by USDA representatives.

More than 2,900 new pieces of cooperative literature -- bulletins, news articles, research reports and newsletters -- were developed during the year, and rural cooperatives and their members received nearly a half million copies of these publications.

During fiscal year 1972, USDA employees throughout the country prepared 791 radio and 58 television announcements and spots about rural cooperatives. In addition, 16 video tapes and 37 films, slide sets and cassettes about cooperatives were prepared.

In total, 44 man-years were expended by USDA last year in these efforts.

Highlights and Examples

Most of the work to develop rural cooperatives was with traditional agricultural marketing and supply cooperatives, but other types of rural cooperatives were also served during the year, including handicrafts, catfish, machinery, credit, consumer, forestry and recreation.

The rural groups were assisted in organizing cooperatives as well as being helped in such areas as business management, accounting and record analysis, business planning, operations, analysis and evaluation, markets and marketing, quality control, transportation, labor management and financing.

During fiscal year 1972, more than 37,000 people were members of handicraft cooperatives in six rural areas -- American Indian reservations; Alaska (Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians); Appalachia; New England; Ozarks; and the South. The primary objective of most of these associations is to improve the income of their members by providing a market outlet for handicrafts that are produced in the home or in community shops.

These handicraft cooperatives also purchase raw materials and other supplies for their members to help lower costs.

In addition to the economic goals, members of handicraft associations have the social goal of providing a focal point for the exchange of ideas with respect to improving work and life in their rural communities.

Handicraft associations, especially those in rural Appalachia, assisted by USDA, have realized remarkable growth during FY 72. They have improved the economic environment of their communities by attracting tourists and by promoting the general development of their communities.

The establishment of a community vegetable production cooperative in Littig, Texas, is expected to triple its members' purchasing power, which at present is below the poverty level. The initial movement for this cooperative came from the Travis County Human Opportunities Corporation in an effort to revitalize this 60-family rural community in Eastern Travis County. Additional assistance came from the Littig Community Organization, the associate county agricultural agent, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas Community Businesss Advisory Service, together with a $5,520 grant provided by the Emergency Food and Medical Service.

This community co-op will produce vegetables on a five-acre plot with the grant money. A University of Texas consumer cooperative has offered to purchase all the produce. The cooperative, which is expected to become self-sufficient during its second year, will help slow migration from the community. At the same time, it will provide employment for 25 people and promote better nutrition for the entire community. As an added "plus" the community has experienced all its citizens working together in a cooperative business venture.

Land owners in Henry County, Alabama, interested in improving the productivity and profitability of timber land in their county, organized the Henry Forestry Association in 1971. Several USDA agencies participated in developing this rural cooperative. For example, FHA loaned the association $10,000 to purchase equipment. SCS provided technical assistance regarding clearing the land and preparing for tree planting. ASCS, through its REAP program, helped land owners pay the cost of clearing the land and planting seedlings. CES also worked closely with the new cooperative.

The association started in 1971 with 90 members and the goal to clear and reforest 300 acres. That goal was met. Now it has 171 members and a new goal to clear and reforest another 1,200 acres.

This is the only timber stand improvement association in Alabama. In the two years since it was organized it has become a model cooperative. Citizens from other rural communities throughout Alabama and from Georgia have visited Henry Forestry Association to learn more about this young but prosperous cooperative.

APPENDIX A

This report is a consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and State Rural Development Committees. It was prepared under the overall guidance of the National USDA Rural Development Committee. A copy of the RD Committee Report for a specific State may be obtained by contacting the Committee Chairman for that State.

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APPENDIX B

Composition and activities of all State Rural Development Committees appear in Tables 1 and 2, pages 6 through 9. In addition, references to States occur on the pages indicated in the following listing.

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